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AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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Volume XX MAY-JUNE, 1938 Number 1

THE BIG GAME POACHER AND HIS SMOKE SCREEN

BY L. H. DOUGLAS

Assistant Regional Forester, Forest Service, Denver

IT IS INTERESTING TO HEAR THE comments about big game animals and cattle and sheep when groups of outdoor sportsmen or groups of live-stock producers collect to discuss what interests them. Many sportsmen who spend a few days each year hunting deer, elk, or antelope in the western states refer to the paradise for these game animals if there were no cattle or sheep where the wild animals range. Some even go so far as to contend that the cattle and sheep should be held on ranches and not permitted to use public lands. Others, not so direct in their approach, will refer to the great economic value of big game animals to a state, admitting the while that such value is indirect and accrues to the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker and not to the cattleman or sheepman, who cannot make his living from deer, elk, or antelope. The big bulk of the sportsmen, however, recognize that it is futile to demand elimination of cattle and sheep, even if it were desirable or necessary, which it is not.

The cattleman or sheepman, on the other hand, will usually contend that there is room for an abundance of deer, elk, or antelope and also cattle and sheep. There may be an occasional outspoken individual who will demand removal of all big game animals, contending that agricultural homes are more important than deer or elk to be killed for sport.

They Solve No Problem

Such discussions as these, of course, may create interest in the problem of producing big game animals in quantity, but they afford no solution. The greatest need lies in the direction of obtaining all the facts surrounding the existence of game animals in their present environment and then wise management in accordance with such facts. If such a happy situation can be brought about, cattlemen and sheepmen need have no fear of big game animals crowding their live stock from the ranges. At the same time, hunters and other outdoor recreationists could realize populations of big game far beyond the present occurrence in the West. It will be my purpose in this article to point out several facts not generally recognized but pretty well established. From them, perhaps some enlightening conclusions can be drawn.

ROAD ON ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST

A vast majority of the deer, elk, and mountain sheep occurring west of the Great Plains is found seven or eight months on the national forests. In many places the entire year finds these animals on the forests. The only other herbivorous big game animal, the antelope, is a plains animal. From 25 per cent to 40 per cent of each of the 113 western national forests (which total 153,435,514 acres) is unsuited to cattle or sheep because of rough topography, heavy timber growth, or general inaccessibility. These areas are ideal big game areas and are the natural retreats of these animals, harassed by poachers in so many localities. In only a relatively few localities have the populations of these mountain animals reached proportions making unusual control measures necessary. Wintering conditions are not the best in most places in the West. Vitality of the game animals is not maintained in winter at the high point realized in the old days, when deer and elk either stayed yearlong in the low country or migrated in winter from the mountains to this low country. But when one attempts to account for present populations of deer, elk, and antelope by a discussion of winter range he will fail in the attempt.

The Winter Range Fallacy

Here is fact number one, then: Existing numbers of big game animals are not determined by lack of winter range. They will continue to increase, if other

factors are favorable, long after devastation of the forage and stunting of the animals cause greater alarm than mere numbers. The Kaibab deer situation has become the classic example of this. Protected from man and predator, the Kaibab deer increased until they became stunted, emaciated weaklings. They threatened to ruin their natural range, but still they increased in numbers. The elk herds around Yellowstone Park were headed that way, but artificial feeding and especially heavy killing in open season have tended to alleviate that extreme situation.

When numbers of deer and elk begin to reach saturation point from the standpoint of winter range, those whose duty it is to provide forage for them worry more about the destruction of natural forage than about numbers. The second fact, then, is that long before increases in numbers will stop, spring, fall, and winter range will suffer so that capacity for ultimate numbers under proper management will be much less than it would have been if overstocking had not occurred.

Colorado an Example

I believe that a picture of the deer situation in Colorado, which is illustrative of the situation in most of the western states, will serve to make clear what I have been discussing. On the map herewith, I show the estimated number of deer on each national forest and also the number of cattle and sheep summered on each forest. The live stock is in terms of cattle, with sheep reduced to cattle in the ratio of five sheep to one cow. Three ciphers are left off each figure. These deer figures total 103,000 and there are not more than 20,000 more in the state that are found yearlong outside the national forests.

It is readily seen that there is no relationship between numbers of deer and numbers of domestic live stock. There is no reason, so far as domestic live stock is concerned, why, on every national forest in Colorado, there should not be as many deer as on the Arapaho, White River, Holy Cross, and Gunnison. In fact, the winter range situation is much better in the southern part of the state than on or near these four forests. What, then, explains the wide differences in the populations of deer? Rifles in the hands of hunters.

State game refuges have restricted legal killing on the above-named forests, but by far the biggest factor is inaccessibility of the country and favorable public sentiment, both of which discourage poachers. The Roosevelt and Pike forests contain state refuges, but even though these limit killing by law-abiding hunters in the open season, they do not discourage the poacher who is legion on the "Front Range." Poaching likewise is rampant in the southern part of the state, and there are no closed areas to limit hunting by law-abiding citizens during the open season.

On the four forests, on each of which 16,000 to 18,000 deer and 3,000 to 4,000 elk are found, the fall and spring range which is covered too deeply by snow for strictly winter use is being overgrazed on areas not used by cattle or sheep at all. The animals are increasing because the open season of one buck or one bull does not result in a sufficient kill to offset the annual increase. If drastic action is not taken soon, the spring, fall, and winter range will be so depleted that, as in the Kaibab case, the reduction will have to go much farther than it should have.

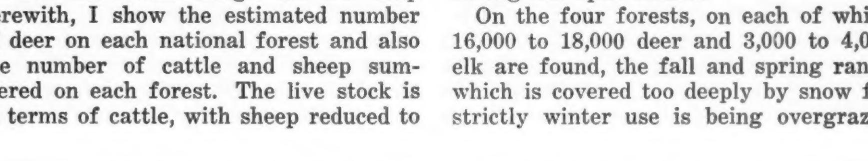
WINTER IN THE UNCOMPAHGRE

Control Poaching

Let us say that 12,000 to 15,000 could be maintained on each of these four forests. If that is true, and it seems reasonable, it is also true of the other 10 forests. This means about 200,000 deer, or twice as many as we have now. Such an objective can be realized by control of poaching and reasonable limitation of legal hunting where needed.

Once the capacity of the range is reached, numbers should be drastically controlled by sensible, legal hunting. To carry 12,000 to 15,000 per forest, the critical fall, winter, and spring range will have to be increased in places, but that means only a relatively narrow belt of foothill land at the base of the mountains.

Let us meet this situation when the objective as to numbers is reached, but in the meantime let us not spread a smoke screen by shouting cattle, sheep, or winter range and obscure the real issue, which is poaching, poaching, poaching.



THIS MAP SHOWS PROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF DEER AS COMPARED WITH CATTLE AND SHEEP ON COLORADO NATIONAL FORESTS

NO OVERSUPPLY OF OPTIMISM

BY JAMES E. POOLE

OPTIMISM DOES NOT RUN freely through live-stock market channels. Each day's supply is subjected to selling pressure. Killers' injunction to buyers is stereotyped; get prices down is the objective. Industrial conditions have not favored free distribution of meats, both retailers and wholesalers complaining of dormant trade. All through April cattle prices did not vary to exceed 25 cents per cwt. weekly, the hog market dropped steadily to lower levels, and live mutton trade alternately slumped and recovered.

Prospects Not Promising

The prospect at this writing is far from promising. Grass cattle will soon be available, insuring spread widening in seasonal manner, and there is an ample supply of corn-fed steers back in feeders' hands to satisfy trade requirements. Whenever killers have access to a few more cattle than they need, a 25-cent slump ensues; the moment the movement is reduced, recovery is effected. Occasionally a load of prime corn-fed steers sells at $10.50; the proportion above $10 at any market in the country is limited. During the past three months steers that went into Corn Belt feed-lots last fall have been closely marketed, probability being that a condition similar to that which boosted prices last fall may develop, although substantially higher quotations are impossible. What developed in April will be repeated during the May-to-July period unless all the signs are awry. Whenever an order-buyer on eastern account pays in excess of $10 for a load of bullocks, he is admonished to economize, sales above $10.25 are rare at any market, and a $7.50 to $9.25 trade on dressed beef cattle is the obvious policy of processors.

All information coming from interior points is that a crop of spring and summer fed steers fully equal to requirements will be available whenever killers bid for it. Many of these cattle have been made good enough for any trade in 90 to 120 days in the feed-lot. Feeders realize that long feeds are dangerous and will crowd warmed-up steers into the stock yards right along. Central market receipts are somewhat deceptive, as fat cattle now reach the butcher through many channels; rail and central market statistics are no longer informative concerning future supply prospects.

Eastern Factor Out

Eastern fed cattle began running freely early in the season and are no longer a factor in determining values; later grassers from Virginia and other sections of the Appalachians will enter the competition at the Atlantic seaboard. Kentucky has a supply for spring disposal, and Ohio possesses a galaxy of yearlings that will be routed to the beef-rail. Trade opinion is that the great majority of these steers will go to the butcher in a range of $7.75 to $9.75; heifers, at $8 to $8.75 per cwt.

Killers will not be afforded an opportunity to discriminate against weight in fat cattle this season. There is no plenitude of heavy yearlings, New York paying close to top prices for choice young bullocks weighing around 1,050 pounds. Choice heavy steers at $10.25 to $10.50 must have quality in the superlative degree, otherwise they are penalized at least $1 per cwt. Present indications are that the bulk of the yearling steers—calves of 1937 crop which were sent to the Corn Belt last fall—will go to killers on a narrow spread of $8.50 to $9.50 per cwt. and that the residue of the winter-developed supply of heifers will change hands at $8 to $8.75. At this valuation basis the product can be moved readily, enabling butchers to return to the market for fresh supplies.

FROM JIM POOLE'S PEN

All through April, cattle prices did not vary more than 25 cents a cwt. weekly.

Spring and summer fed steers in ample gobs will be available whenever the killers bid for them.

Consumers are loosening their purse strings only for the low-grade stuff, for which there seems to be an unappeasable demand.

Killers doubt Washington's idea that there are a fourth more cattle in the making for late summer and fall use than last year; but, even if finished steers have been closely sold, there's not much to hang your hat on in the way of values heading skyward.

The April hog market had a seat on a pair of slowly sliding skids. Drove costs dropped $1 a hundred to a notch $2 below that month last year. The new crop will come in for lower prices unless business picks up.

Ups and downs marked the live mutton trade. Indications point to an $8.50 to $8.75 market for the bulk of new crop lambs.

Hides have developed a solid undertone, and, at a little higher prices, business is brisk.

Wool trade is showing signs of expanding.

Low Grades in Demand

Grass cattle in considerable numbers will be needed to damage the market standing of steers selling below $7.50, or heifers under $7. There is a continued and unappeasable demand for low-grade beef, indicating that consumers are still economizing. While yard trading has been practically suspended in the case of steers, cows still get action, maintaining prices of all female cattle close to a parity with steers, and as the season works along this demand will be emphasized, as light meat is popular during high-temperature periods.

Scarcity of fat cows elicits inquiry concerning reasons, the only plausible explanation being that feeding cows has become an obsolete practice during the corn scarcity years. Now that feed is available at reasonable cost, this objection will be eliminated. Scarcity of fat cows is making a healthy market for light heifers and low-grade cows of the canner and cutter type. As another short run of western grass beef has been advertised, feeders are likely to get into competition for cows and heifers in thin flesh; killers will exclude them from competition on everything with a beef covering.

Washington has a theory that around 25 per cent more cattle are in preparation for the late summer and fall market than during the corresponding period of 1937. This conjecture is doubted by killers, who believe that marketing has been close during the first four months of 1938, although cheap feed, grass, and roughage abundance may delay the cashing process. The whole cattle country is long on feed, a condition promising continuance.

Back Door Routes

To contention that cattle receipts at the central markets have been no heavier than during the early part of 1937 the answer is that both steers and heifers have been moving freely by side channels to the butcher. An unrealized heavy sale in sections of Iowa and Illinois that formerly sent the entire output to the markets has been in steady progress since the topping process became possible. This disappearance is not evident until monthly slaughter figures compiled by the government become available. Not only do light cattle go to feed-lots by back door routes, but emerge, when finished, in the same elusive manner.

But assuming that finished steers with weight have been closely marketed or will be by July, there is no reason for saying that values are headed for substantially higher levels. When killers pay anywhere from $8.50 to $10 for corn-fed steers, they are confronted with an onerous beef selling task, espe-

cially with hides at present low cost and all by-product on a depreciated basis. Comparison between wholesale and retail prices must make allowance for this spread, which includes labor, taxes, and incidentals.

However, the summer course of the fat-cattle market appears to be more or less definitely charted. Probably, when grass becomes a factor, spreads will widen, but such is demand for the product of all low-cost cattle that competition will prevent a substantially lower valuation. Cheaper grades of heifers selling at $6.50 to $7.25 per cwt., canning and cutting cows at $4 to $5.25, and low-grade beef cows at $5.50 to $6.25 a cwt. sell more readily than steers worth $8.50 to $10 per cwt. Buyers invariably pick up $6.75 to $7.50 steers before dickering on better grades, and, with feeders in competition on fleshy steers, they will realize relatively high prices.

On this theory grass cattle will sell close to fat steers all through the coming season. At present the margin between initial cost and final selling price is narrow—not to exceed $2 per cwt. and there is nothing on the horizon to warrant expectation of lower stock cattle prices. Killers are grabbing practically all the fleshy or two-way steers reaching the market, and in the event of a normal corn crop will continue to do so. Unless the season's supply of grass beef is heavier than generally expected, western cattle will realize prices closer to finished steers than in recent years.

Hogs Feeling Repression

Hogs are feeling the depressing influence of industrial inactivity. Drove cost dropped $1 per cwt. in April to a basis $2 under that of the corresponding period of 1937. At $7.75 to $8.25 per cwt. difficulty was experienced in cleaning up the daily crop at the markets, packers supplementing it with country purchases—a volume of trade that now exceeds central market clearances. Hogs are still paying their board bill with corn at 50 cents per bushel but if prices drop another dollar per cwt. growers will display less complacency. A $6.50 to $7 market for packing sows and $7.75 to $8.25 for other hogs will probably be the summer market, as packers will avoid depreciating the value of their stocks by depressing hog prices to abnormally low levels.

Lower hog prices on the new crop are assured unless industrial activity increases meanwhile. Production is responding to recent profitable output; the 1938 pig crop is estimated at 25 per cent larger than that of last year and general health is excellent. By September new-crop shotes will be knocking at the market gate and a new set of values will be established.

Imports and exports of hog product are practically of equal poundage, which

(Continued on page 17)

CONCESSIONS TO CANADA OPPOSED

TESTIMONY OF THOSE WHO CONSIDERED their interests at stake in the negotiations of the United States with Canada toward a new trade agreement was heard at Washington, D. C., in early April. Representing the western livestock industry, as well as the National Co-operative Milk Producers' Association and the National Grange in regard to cattle, was F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association.

Mr. Mollin opposed any further cut in the duties on cattle or cattle products or any enlargement of quotas. He pointed out that the cattle industry is capable of supplying all beef requirements of the country at reasonable cost, and that the Department of State's claim that the United States has been on a deficit basis in cattle production since 1910 is true only in limited degree. Much of the imports in recent years have been canned beef, he explained, on which we have never had a tariff that would protect an American canning industry, although we have an ample ranch plant on which to produce our full requirements of cattle; instead, imports are attracted whenever prices are at all profitable for domestic producers and expansion might otherwise occur.

Imports Depress Markets

There is not the slightest doubt that in the spring of 1936 imports of Canadian cattle depressed United States markets, Mr. Mollin said. He testified that receipts of Canadian cattle at St. Paul were 16 per cent of total receipts on March 28, 1936, 18 per cent the following week, 23 the next, 21 the next, 28 in the week of April 25, 23 the week of May 2, and 24 the week of May 9. At Buffalo receipts of Canadian cattle at times actually exceeded domestic receipts. Almost without exception, on the days when 50 to 125 loads of Canadian cattle came in, the market would be 10, 25, and even 50 cents lower, he said.

Under our system of marketing, it was explained, a situation such as mentioned above existing at one market affects all the other central markets in the country, and it does not take so very many cattle in excess of current demand at one point to slow up the market at a good many points. The Northwest had similar experiences, the witness stated, and there, too, it often happens that packers bring in Canadian cattle to break the United States market.

Referring to the situation in 1937—a year of rising markets—Mr. Mollin said that the Canadian cattle would have been absorbed even at the full rate of duty. "Stockmen ship faster on a lower market and make a bad situation worse. They string out better on a rising market. So we cannot point to any bad concentration of receipts in 1937 that seemed to have any especial effect on the market."

Advertising Aid Endangered

A third and different situation existed during the first part of 1938. Up to March 1 our price was so low that few Canadian cattle came to this market. However, when the advertising campaigns staged by the National Live Stock and Meat Board and the Institute of American Meat Packers raised the price again in spite of a bad industrial situation, the Canadians began to come in, not in such volume as in the spring of 1936 but in larger numbers than earlier in the year. This gives us some indication of the point at which such imports will come into this country, Mr. Mollin said, and shows that, even under the advance in prices that only brought the farm price of cattle to within 28 cents of parity, the Canadian cattle began to arrive in greater volume.

But even under the good prices of 1937 the industry lacked 2 cents a cwt. of reaching parity, it was added. The high price in the fall of 1937 applied only to a limited number of long-fed cattle—a situation due entirely to the drought of 1936 and to the AAA program, which somewhat reduced feed production, and not to a shortage of cattle. When the crash came, the industry had to work out of it alone through its advertising effort. The industry does not want the duty lowered to permit the Canadian cattle to come into this market and take advantage of this effort to get out of the hole, it was stated. He pointed out that a reduction in the duty on cattle weighing more than 700 pounds or on calves weighing less than 175 pounds would mean increased competition. Had such reduction been in effect early this year, it would have brought the Canadians into our demoralized markets earlier and made a bad situation worse.

Calf Tariff too Low

Testimony also showed that calves in 1937 came only within 75 cents of reaching parity price. Canadian exports of calves to our markets increased under the reduced duty. Both in 1936 and 1937 the quota of 51,933 head permitted entry at 1.5 cents per pound (reduced from 2.5) was exceeded, indicating that Canadians are able to pay the full rate of duty and still profitably export to the United States, the witness declared.

It is impossible to determine the exact effect of the reduced duty on returns to domestic farmers, Mr. Mollin said, be-

cause veal prices were rising during 1935-37 due to shortage of other types of meat and the improvement in business conditions. However, he said, since the average price of veal calves in the United States in 1937 was $8.32 and 78,497 head averaging 150 pounds were imported, the American farmer had to meet competition equal to $980,000 worth of veal calves. Prices of veal calves may be expected to average materially lower in 1938 than in 1937, Mr. Mollin stated, and, as veal competes with other meats, all of which are now lower, it is important that the domestic market for veal calves be preserved for domestic producers. The duty on calves should be restored to its original figure, he urged.

Reduction in the 175- to 700-pound class would benefit Mexico more than it would Canada, it was alleged. It is fair to assume, he said, that in the long run we shall have increased rather than decreased competition from Mexico. If that country puts all her people into farming, she will have more cattle than under her old ranch program.

Dressed Meat a Threat

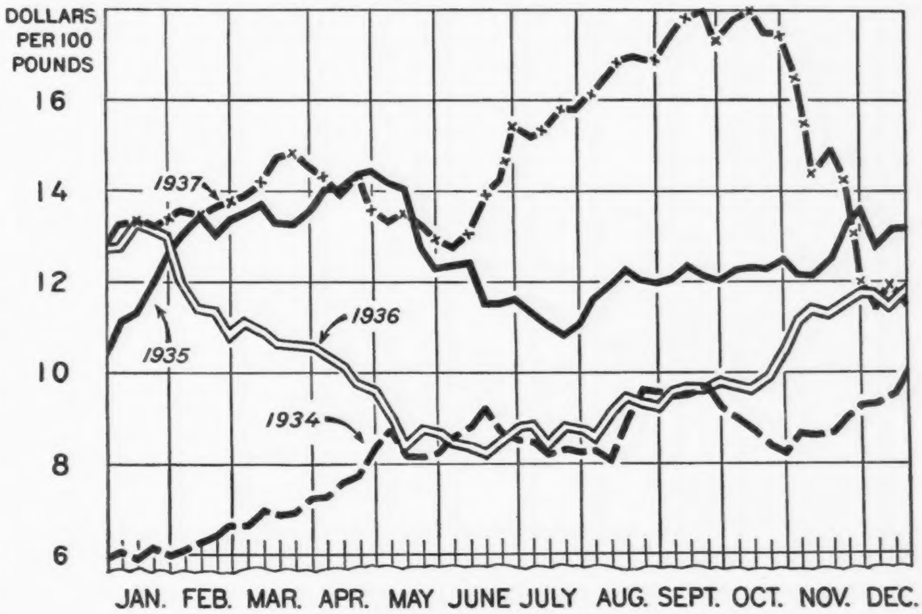
Dressed beef and veal also present a threat to our markets, said the witness. It opens the possibility of imports from Canada, where the cattle population is about equal to the human population; from Australia, where there are 2 cattle and 19 sheep to each person; and from New Zealand, where there are 3 cattle and 20 sheep for each individual, whereas the United States has half a head of the bovine unit and less than a half head of the ovine product to each person. Ocean distances from Sidney, Australia, or Wellington, New Zealand, to New York or San Francisco are considerably less than to Liverpool. It is only price that keeps Australian and New Zealand beef out of our markets, he said. London markets constantly quote Australian and New Zealand chilled beef, and the trade is well established and growing, it was stated. Advertisements clipped from London papers were presented to the committee to show that dealers are pushing chilled beef on the London market and that some of the commodity advertised was Argentine beef. Shipments could easily be confined to the higher priced hind quarters, loins, etc., it was suggested, and current differentials in London and New York prices, with ocean distances favoring shipments here, indicate that a reduction of 3 cents in the tariff would open our market to Australian and perhaps New Zealand beef.

Overproduction Possible

Mr. Mollin called attention to the announcement that 15,000,000 to 30,000,000 acres of additional land are to be taken out of production of major crops this year and pyramided on previous acreage withdrawals; that the extension service and college men in sections of the South are urging farmers to put their restricted acres into live stock; that in the states east of the Missouri River there has been quite an increase in sheep production while sheep production generally has gone down; that those states have held their own on cattle in the past five years while the total cattle numbers have gone down about 5,000,000; and that much western drought country must restock if the cattlemen are to stay in business, concluding therefrom that we may soon have too many sheep and cattle and will need the entire American consuming market to take care of the surplus.

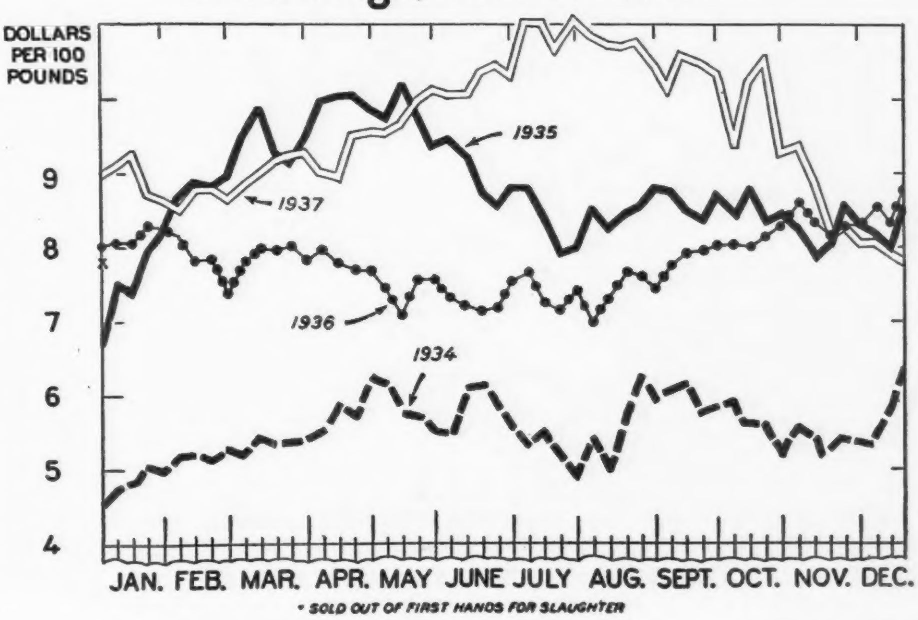
"No industry," said Mr. Mollin, "can operate satisfactorily with constant threat of increased competition through lower duties or enlarged quotas. The threat of pending agreements unquestionably increased losses since the first of the year. Slaughter of steers in January and February was heavier than at any time in the past four years. Many of the animals when bought were intended for later markets but were

Beef Steers, Choice and Prime*: Average Price at Chicago, 1934 to Date



*SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Beef Steers, Medium*: Average Price at Chicago, 1934 to Date



* SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

dumped in despair at staggering losses."

The industry, he said, made sacrifices in the original Canadian agreement. "In view of the internal situation now confronting it, the heavy loss now being suffered, the desire to increase production in the Corn Belt and the South on a subsidized basis, it is unfair to ask it to make further concessions."

There seems to be no likelihood of being able to maintain parity prices under the present situation. That being true, and assuming that the administration's objective of achieving parity prices for agricultural commodities has been stated in all sincerity, it would seem that the tariff reductions made in the original agreement should be wiped out. No other single step would go as far in restoring confidence in the industry and in the bringing about of a more stable market situation at a level fair alike to both producer and consumer, the cattle representative said. He urged the working out of a monthly quota.

The witness' statement which we have summarized above was followed by cross-examination. We print the stenographer's report in full:

CHAIRMAN GRADY. Mr. Arner would like to ask you some questions.

MR. ARNER. You did not lay great stress on dairy cattle imports?

MR. MOLLIN. No, I did not.

MR. ARNER. How do you explain the fact that the imports did not anywhere reach the quota limit?

MR. MOLLIN. I don't know but what the sanitary regulations had something to do with that. All our states require tuberculosis testing. That may have been one of the reasons. We have an increasing number of dairy cattle in this country of our own. I don't suppose there is any very great demand for them.

MR. ARNER. Then that feature of the reduction in the trade agreement act has not done any particular harm from your point of view?

MR. MOLLIN. I do not think it has.

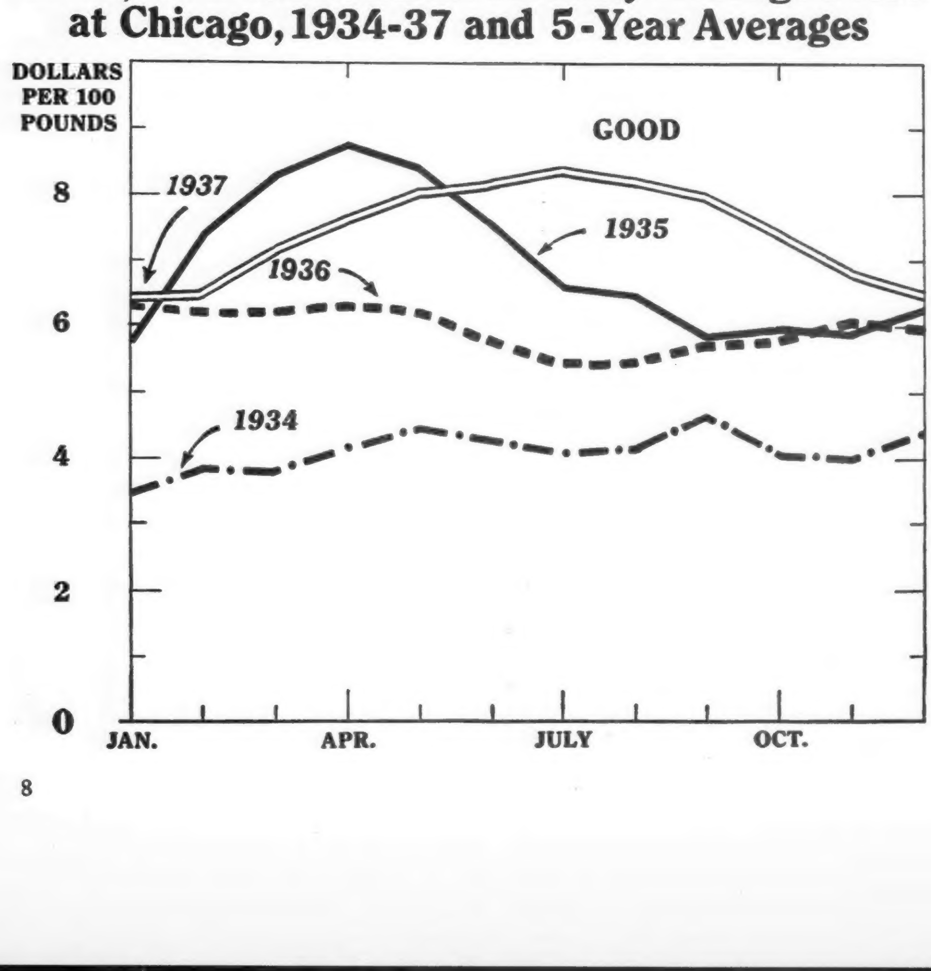
MR. ARNER. You spoke of the fact of the chilled beef being on the London market as shown by this advertising matter. I presume that you are perfectly familiar with the fact that that chilled beef has been on the London market for more than 25 years?

MR. MOLLIN. Well, there has been a great increase in recent years. I have the figures here some place showing that increase.

MR. ARNER. That is aside from the point, I think, but a large part of the British market for beef has been supplied by Argentine chilled beef.

MR. MOLLIN. Yes. Of course, they are closer than Australia and New Zealand, and now those countries have perfected a method whereby they can bring that beef from Australia and New Zealand and put it on the market there in good shape. They used to say that we did not have anything to fear in this country, because all they could bring here was frozen beef and we do not have a consumer demand for frozen beef, although they did put some in here when they had the opportunity, but that condition no longer exists. They will bring in chilled beef in this market if you lower the duty.

Cows, Good and Choice: Monthly Average Price at Chicago, 1934-37 and 5-Year Averages



MR. ARNER. If we lower it sufficiently?

MR. MOLLIN. Well, the spread is not very wide at the present time.

MR. ARNER. How wide is it at the present time?

MR. MOLLIN. Just about 3 or 4 cents, so it appears that a cut in the duty of 3 cents might tempt them. And then, we do not know. We have no assurance what our market is going to do.

And you know further that the English government operates on a quota system. They take as much as they want from one place and when they have got their quota filled then the price is not of much importance. They have to go wherever they can go. That is why we are getting so much canned beef in this country. Argentina cannot get in here any other way. She exhausts quotas in England, and then puts the stuff in the can and ships it to the United States.

MR. ARNER. Is there any Empire preference on chilled beef?

MR. MOLLIN. I do not know whether there is an Empire preference, but there is a definite and decreasing quota to the Argentine government on beef that the Argentine has been allowed to ship into Great Britain, and that has decreased each year for several years, so I presume it is an Empire preference.

MR. ARNER. They would be inclined then, to take all the New Zealand and Australian chilled beef in the London market to the detriment of Argentina?

MR. MOLLIN. I don't know that they would take all of it. Of course, you know they probably would not do that, because I understand that a lot of the Englishmen own the big ranches in the Argentine, and they are looking out for No. 1, too.

MR. ARNER. Now, regarding these importations from Canada, to come down to the point mainly under discussion, is it not true that the prices of choice and prime beef steers have declined more rapidly than the prices of the medium steers that have come in largely from Canada?

MR. MOLLIN. What year?

MR. ARNER. During the first half of 1936.

MR. MOLLIN. Yes, that is true, for the simple reason that we had an oversupply in this country based on the corn crop of 1935. We had a very heavy supply of choice cattle, but I am calling your attention to the fact that January 4 in Chicago the market price of beef steers, 900 to 1,100 pounds, choice quality, was $12.42 per hundred. On March 28, when the Canadians began to run, the price of these choice cattle was $10.52. There had been a reduction of $1.90 from January 4 to March 28.

On medium steers of the kind that the Canadians compete with, they were $8.10 on January 4, and $8.10 on March 28. They had not gone down a dime. The choice cattle had gone down $1.90.

(Continued on page 19)

ALL HANDS HELP EAT MORE MEAT DRIVE

MEAT PRICES, THAT PROVOKED headlines, protests, and strikes six months ago, have been quietly shrinking ever since, and today are back to their late 1934 and early 1935 levels, says an editorial in the March 28 issue of AAA's *Consumers' Guide*.

Not headlined now is the fact that meat costs one-fifth less than it did at its peak in the fall of 1937, 4 per cent less than in February, 1937, and 5 per cent less than in February, 1936, it is stated.

Two forces have been tugging downward on these prices, the experts declare: Supplies seriously curtailed by the 1936 drought, are filling up again; consumer incomes have been shrinking.

* * *

But after the first of the year the Institute of American Meat Packers launched a nation-wide "Move More Meat" campaign and the National Live Stock and Meat Board staged a special long-time radio "Eat More Meat" appeal. All agree they kept a bad situation from getting worse.

* * *

The Union Pacific Railroad Company is doing its part in the "Eat More Meat" campaign. A special edition of the railroad's *Traffact* has been devoted to live stock and meat, and during April attractive slips were attached to all menus in Union Pacific dining cars and restaurants about meat.

"By emphasizing the food values of meat, especially at present prices, both to our dining car and restaurant patrons and to the people in Union Pacific territory, we hope to aid the live-stock industry," writes Earle G. Reed, supervisor of agricultural development for the Union Pacific.

* * *

Aiding also in the "Move More Meat" drive was the recent full page editorial in the J. I. Case Company *Eagle*, reading in part:

"Promote meat in national and local advertising based on the following facts: Approximately two-thirds of the tillable land in the United States is devoted to raising feed for live stock; sale of meat animals provides the farmer with his largest single source of income; an increased meat consumption means larger and better markets for the farmers' meat animals; a better market for farm products means a better market for the products the farmer buys. Meat prices are attractive; quality is improved. Now you can serve meat more often."

Allis-Chalmers, another farm equipment concern, contributed time on its radio chain programs in early April, putting in a plug for meats:

"Ask any man to name his favorite dish, and nine chances out of ten he'll say, A big, thick, juicy steak. Maybe for variety, he'll want roast leg o' lamb, done to a delicious golden brown, or a plate of tender, savory fried ham. But in any event, he'll name a meat dish, because meat is the keystone of the American meal. Right now there is an abundance of all kinds of meat—beef, pork, lamb and veal. The quality is unusually good and prices are very attractive. Let's eat more meat for strong, vigorous health!"

* * *

Motion pictures, too, are playing a part in the campaign. Southern California members of the Institute of American Meat Packers had at their monthly Los Angeles dinner as their guest Leo Carrillo, actor and movie star, we read in the *National Provisioner*. They were told that a picture to be titled "Eat More California Meat" was in preparation by Carrillo. The picture would show the romance of the early California rancho, the calf from its birth until development into a finished steer, thence to killing and processing departments, and its conversion into food.

The actor explained that he was doing this for the good of the live-stock and packing industries and to encourage the continuance of cattle raising in California. His production will be completed without cost to the industry —his contribution to a worthy campaign.

* * *

The *Western Meat Journal* mentions the "viewpoint which some dealers took that the meat industry would have to do a lot more and a lot steadier advertising to counteract the advertising and propaganda issued by meat substitute manufacturers.

"Although retailers as a whole appear unenthusiastic concerning the results of the campaign, the fact remains that the live-stock producers and feeders were helped by the addition of a half billion in the value of their live-stock."

And the journal points out that there is another factor to be considered. The past three months have been months of declines and commodity prices have been on the down grade, while at the same time meat prices have held steady or made slight advances. This may be due to the campaign, says the magazine.

"I GUESS IT'S SAFE TO CROSS NOW — I DON'T SEE ANY TRAIN COMIN'"

* * *

The National Live Stock and Meat Board reports an unprecedented demand for meat literature from every section of the country.

"The message that abundant supplies of meat are available, that the quality is high, and that meat prices are reasonable has been carried to consumers everywhere and their reaction has been gratifying," says the board. It commends the wholehearted co-operation of the many interests, not only the live-stock and meat industry, but other agencies as well.

The meat board has been sponsoring a 13-week radio program over 14 stations. Response to this has resulted in a constant flow of requests for more than 1,400 pieces of meat literature per day. Other examples of co-operation, says the board, are the use of meat material by animal husbandry specialists in colleges and universities in radio and newspaper outlets. Home service directors of public utilities companies have been distributing thousands of meat recipe books.

The National Association of Retail Grocers, the National Association of Food Chains, and the National Association of Retail Meat Dealers have rendered great service through their activities in meat retailing, says the board.

* * *

Armour Magazine, in writing about the "Eat More Meat" campaign, says that "in the face of continued unsatisfactory purchasing power and the Lenten season, average prices for live stock have increased since the nation-wide campaign got under way in mid-February." More orderly marketing has resulted, it is stated, and the entire industry put on a firmer basis.

The report, however, should not be interpreted as an assertion that happy days are here again, says the magazine, since an increase of 50 cents or $1 from the winter low will not enable producers to make a profit, "nor will the proportionate increase in the realizing price for meat enable the packers to make up large inventory losses." The fact remains, however, it is explained, that the first large scale, all-inclusive effort to improve demand for meat has been followed by a distinct betterment in the entire industry.

UTAH CATTLEMEN IN CONVENTION

L. C. MONTGOMERY, OF HEBER, was named to head Utah's cattle and horse growers' association at the meeting held in Salt Lake City April 4-5. R. V. Broadhurst, of Salt Lake City, was named secretary. Among speakers before the meeting was Hubbard Russell, of Los Angeles, California, new president of the American National.

Other speakers included R. H. Rutledge, regional forester; Dr. W. H. Hendricks, state veterinarian; U. G. Miller, state supervisor of the Farm Debt Adjustment Bureau.

Resolutions urged that no further concessions be made in live-stock duties or quotas, that canned beef and hides be afforded adequate tariff protection, that the fats-and-oils excise tax be maintained. Retention of existing embargoes applying to countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists was urged.

The association requested that a more rigid check-up of brand inspection be made, and recommended the offering of $100 reward for evidence leading to conviction of cattle thieves, excluding, however, brand inspectors and peace officers as eligible to the reward.

A resolution referring to the problem of big game asked that in areas of congestion killing of both sexes of the game be permitted, and that protection against game damages be afforded land owners.

It was urged that the state land board and the grazing districts co-operate toward proper grazing on state lands, and a bigger revenue therefrom; at the same time, however, rentals should be reasonable. Association co-operation with agencies in control of noxious weeds and rodents was proffered. No further withdrawals to restrict beneficial use of public range should be made, a resolution stated.

Cattle producers and packers were urged to double their present 25-cent-a-car contribution to the Meat Board. The Utah cattlemen pledged their continued support to the American National Live Stock Association.

INCREASED INTEREST IN ORGANIZATION

A STIMULATING REPORT, OF INcreasing interest in organization comes in a letter from the president of the American National Live Stock Association, Hubbard Russell, of Los Angeles, telling about his attendance at recent various cattlemen's meetings:

"I had the pleasure of attending and of talking to the Santa Barbara, San Luis, Madera, Kern, and Ventura county (California) cattle association meetings during March, and I am pleased to advise you that each of these associations resolved unanimously to put over the calf plan in the very near future. They also resolved unanimously to increase to 50 cents per car the payment to the Meat Board.

"Secretary of the California Cattlemen's Association, John Curry, was at all these meetings. Mr. Curry and I agreed that these cattlemen seem to be more 'association minded' than usual and that they recognize the necessity of strong local, state, and national associations. Mr. Curry advised that the average attendance was about double that of last year. I expect to attend with Mr. Curry and California Association President Hugh Baber several other county meetings in the near future and hope to report satisfactory results.

"I attended the annual convention of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association held at Santa Fe on March 24-25 and the annual meeting of the Utah Cattle and Horse Growers' Association at Salt Lake City on April 4-5. These conventions were well attended. Keen interest in what is happening in a national way to our industry was very evident."

* * *

Quarterly meeting of the board of directors of the Coastal Cattle Association was held April 20 at the Pinehurst, Texas, stables of E. W. Brown, Jr. Some 75 cattlemen from the coastal section of Texas and Louisiana were in attendance. Among the speakers were W. O. Turner, of Beaumont, Texas, president of the Coastal Cattle Association; R. T. Harper, of Swift and Company, Lake Charles, Louisiana; Arthur L. Gayle, president of the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association; W. P. H. McFaddin, former president of the Coastal Cattle Association; and M. E. Meier, vice-president of the Coastal association.

* * *

At Winnemucca, Nevada, March 30, a group of sheepmen, representative of all the wool-growing sections of the state, formed a new state organization. Gordon Griswold, of Elko, was named president, and E. L. Settelmeyer, of Washoe County, vice-president. Jerry Sheehan was chosen as secretary, with an office at Reno.

* * *

The Eastern New Mexico Hereford Association, composed of breeders of registered Herefords in the eastern and southeastern counties of the state, held its annual meeting in Roswell in March. A. D. Jones, of Roswell, was chosen president; A. L. French, of Elida, vice-president; and G. H. Hockenson, of Roswell, secretary-treasurer. The association voted to hold its annual bull sale on the last Friday of January each year. The next sale will be January 27, 1939, at Roswell.

"TWO MORE CHORUSES, THANK GOODNESS, AND HE'LL BE THROUGH SOWING THE WHEAT"

Members of the Monterey County (California) Cattlemen's Association elected the following officers and directors at the annual meeting recently at King City: Irvin Armstrong, president; Joe Bengard, vice-president; Julius Trescony, secretary-treasurer; Kenneth Eades, Walter B. Norris, Ki Selacci, Albert Hansen, and Jim G. Bardin, directors.

Speakers included Hubbard Russell, president of the American National Live Stock Association, who told of the work that that association is doing in legislative matters at Washington, and who urged the cattlemen to give full support to their local, state, and national organizations and to the Meat Board. Assistant Farm Adviser Rube Albaugh gave a brief talk based on studies made on cost of beef production in Monterey county and the state. "One thing the cost figures show," remarked Mr. Albaugh, "is that it costs money to permit cattle to lose weight, and it pays big returns to keep cattle growing and going ahead." Mr. Albaugh gave figures showing that on the average it did not pay to carry steers over from the two- to three-year-old stage. Dr. C. B. Griffith, of the California bureau of animal industry gave encouraging figures on California's campaign against bovine tuberculosis.

* * *

The Cochise-Graham Cattle Growers' Association, oldest of Arizona's local organizations, in meeting at Safford, recommended support in the amount of 1½ cents a head on cattle owned by members for the National Live Stock and Meat Board. Resolutions also asked that the Taylor Grazing Law be amended to provide for local advisory boards and definitely to define board authority and duties, and recommended that the state land laws be amended to allow the land department to issue 10-year leases.

Among speakers at the meeting was Hubbard Russell, president of the American National Live Stock Association. He urged alertness to a possible evasion of the embargo against foot-and-mouth disease, and cautioned utmost vigilance in the matter of reciprocal trade agreements with foreign nations. He stressed the need for and accomplishments of live-stock organizations and urged support of the National Live Stock and Meat Board. Dan McKinney, of Tucson, pointed to the need of more meat advertising, showing that cattlemen were a "bunch of pikers" in the advertising game, stating that potato raisers spend over $2 a car for advertising as against the cattleman's 25 cents. A. C. Webb, of Globe, president of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, urged the cowmen to join their local game protective associations because those organizations are interested in many laws affecting the range. Other speakers were Wayne Thornburg, of Phoenix, president of the Arizona Live Stock Production Credit Association and vice-president of the

Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, and Senator W. B. Kelly, of Safford.

Harry Hooker is president of the Cochise-Graham association, Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson, secretary—both of Willcox.

* * *

At the annual stockholders' meeting of Pacific States Live Stock Marketing Association, held in San Francisco April 12, directors elected to continue in office were J. Sheldon Potter, of San Francisco; Frank C. Simpson, of Sanger, California; E. Ray Cowden, of Phoenix, Arizona; and George Russell, Jr., of Elko, Nevada. Hugh S. Walker, Livermore, California; Silas D. Sinton, San Francisco; and William C. Dalton, of Malin, Oregon, were also chosen as directors. Officers are: President, J. Sheldon Potter; vice-president, Frank C. Simpson; secretary-treasurer, Earl D. Schlaman.

* * *

Money for cattle theft rewards and support of the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association and the American National Live Stock Association is being raised by members of the Larimer County (Colorado) Stock Growers' Association through a give-a-calf plan. The plan calls for donation of one calf by each member owning 500 or more cattle and a proportionate part of a calf by those running fewer animals. A committee selects the calves, which will be sold, preferably to 4H Club boys, at auction. In proportioning payments by members having less than 500 head of cattle, the plan would call, for instance, for donation of half the average proceeds of a calf to the association in the case of a 250-head owner, and, in the case of members running 50 or fewer cattle, the refund of all the proceeds received for the average calf except $5, that being the minimum dues. The Larimer County association pays a reward of $100 for the arrest and conviction of anyone stealing cattle from a member.

* * *

V. C. Van Duzer was re-elected president of the Plumas-Tahoe (California) Cattlemen's Protective Association at the recent annual meeting of that body at Bangor, California. Secretary Clifford McMillan and Directors Roy Farrington, Dan Ruth, and James Scott were also re-elected. Speakers at the gathering included Hugh Baber, president of the California Cattlemen's Association; Clyde Harris, head of the live-stock identification service of the CCA; Merle Collins, of Marysville, who talked on underconsumption of meat.

* * *

Washington Cattlemen's Association convention, to be held at Omak, Washington, May 23-24, will include a tour of inspection to a typical ranching unit and range set-up and back-routing through forest land and wild game country; a meeting of the Okanogan County Cattlemen's Association; a banquet and smoker. President Hubbard Russell and Secretary F. E. Mollin of the American National Live Stock Association will be among the speakers.

* * *

Dolph Briscoe, of Uvalde, Texas, was named president of the Border Stock Raisers' Protective Association at its recent annual meeting. He succeeded S. E. McKnight, of Carrizo Springs. Sal Armstrong, of Carrizo Springs, was elected vice-president. The association favored raising the state truck load limit to 20,000 pounds.

* * *

Directors of the newly formed Oklahoma Live Stock Growers' Association in recent meeting favored compacts between Oklahoma and adjoining states to facilitate "legitimate movement of live stock across state lines to protect at the same time interests of the entire live-stock industry;" favored state laws more effectively to control theft, live-stock sales, and perdatory dogs; and urged use of uniform bill of lading.

* * *

The Montana Stock Growers' Associa-tion recently adopted the "give-a-calf" plan and notified members that if they

"want to brand a calf 'Bar M' on either the left or right shoulder for this Association, they can accept that method of paying dues instead of sending in the cash."

* * *

Payment to the National Live Stock and Meat Board of 50 cents for each car of cattle shipped was agreed to at two recent California local cattlemen's groups—the Benito County Cattlemen's Association and the Fresno County Cattlemen's Association. Substantial support for the American National Live Stock Association was also voted.

* * *

More than 100 Sandhill ranchers, representing over 36,000 cattle, met in Valentine, Nebraska, April 16, for the purpose of considering ways and means for giving wider publicity to the excellence of feeder cattle produced in that region. Sam R. McKelvie, of By The Way Ranch, Wood Lake, temporary chairman, appointed a committee of eleven ranchers to formulate plans for perfecting a permanent organization at a meeting to be held in Valentine on May 21. Members of the committee are: Tom Arnold, Nenzel; George Christopher, Valentine; Harold Harms, Wood Lake; Earl Peterson, Newport; Jim Kreycik, Wood Lake; Roy Ross, Gordon; Earl Monahan, Hyannis; Jay Cole, Merriman; Fay Hill, Gordon; Harry Thorley, Springview; and Albert Salzman, Ainsworth.

The Sandhills of Nebraska is one of the largest producing areas of beef cattle in the country. Cherry County, in the heart of that region, has the largest number of beef cattle of any county.

* * *

After a half century of development in registered Hereford breeding, John E. Painter and Sons will disperse more than a thousand head of their purebred stuff on June 29-30 and July 1 at the ranch headquarters near Roggen, Colorado. This sale will be an outstanding event to Hereford breeders, in that there will be offered the excellent foundation stock and top bulls of the established "Painter Type" herd.

CORN BELT FARMERS REVOLT AGAINST AAA

THE CORN BELT REVOLT against the AAA, which started April 18 at a meeting of some 1,500 farmers at Macomb, Illinois, has become organized into the Corn Belt Liberty League, the second meeting of which drew an audience of more than 3,000 farmers and written requests from farm groups in 26 states for a statement of league principles.

The league's objection to the crop control program is that:

1. The law constitutes a threat of dictatorship;
2. Present allotments force breaking up of fields; thus increasing cost of tilling.
3. The law fails to consider adequately requirements of each farmer in the rotation of his crops.
4. Benefits favor farmers who have been "overfarming."
5. Cash benefits are tantamount to bribes to force farmers into line with the program.
6. The farmer is best able to decide how and when to rotate crops and to conserve the soil.
7. Ever normal granary is socialistic monopoly and is unjustified because the law of supply and demand would keep farmers from overproducing for more than one year.
8. Taxes will rebound to vitiate any help had.
9. Corn in place of cotton in the South penalizes the Corn Belt.
10. Program will create more acreage of hay, "knocking the bottom out of the hay market."
11. Irregular havoc caused by storms, floods and droughts are not considered.
12. Restriction of American corn production while at the same time importing Argentine corn at world prices is unfair discrimination.

LIVE STOCK COMMISSION RATES RULED OUT

REVERSING THE DECISION OF a lower court, the United States Supreme Court on April 25 held invalid rates proposed by the Secretary of Agriculture for the Kansas City Stock Yards.

The rate order had been attacked by commission firms on the ground that it violated the due process clause of the federal constitution. The decision turned, not upon whether the facts warranted the rates prescribed, but upon a question of procedure.

Prior to late in 1936, before holding the final hearing in the secretary's office it had been the practice not to send out a copy of the proposed order to the commission firms involved. This error of omission was corrected September 14, 1936, by Secretary Wallace. In a letter to Chief Justice Hughes, the secretary said the court has switched its position on this point.

The decision does not affect rates now in force at the Kansas City Stock Yards, although it has resulted in a loss of some $700,000 of farmer money. The present rates were put into effect after the period covered by the litigation.

The case had dragged along for eigth years. "Appalling to the average man," says Secretary Wallace, "about this entire question is the slowness with which justice can be obtained when economic balance and adjustment are involved. . . . The correlation of justice with the problem of economic balance and adjustment which are so vital to modern society is one to challenge the best minds of the age."

CATTLE CONVENTION LINKED WITH INTERNATIONAL FAIR

FEBRUARY 15 TO 17, 1939, ARE dates of the forty-second annual convention of the American National Live Stock Association, to be held in San Francisco. On February 18 the Golden Gate International Exposition will open in that city. Customarily the American National holds its convention in January, but next year's dates are fixed so that those attending may also go to the exposition.

Already requests concerning hotel reservations, etc., are being received, and we therefore at this early date urge stockmen to make their reservations. Convention headquarters will be at the Palace Hotel. When you make your reservation you should specify that you will attend the American National convention, so that you will get special rates.

CALENDAR

May 16-17—Convention Western North Dakota Stockmen's Ass'n, Dickinson.
May 18-20—Convention Montana Stock Growers' Ass'n, Helena.
May 20-21—Convention Oregon Cattle and Horse Growers' Ass'n, Baker.
May 23-24—Convention Washington Cattlemen's Ass'n, Omak.
May 31-June 1—Convention Idaho State Cattle and Horse Growers' Ass'n, Pocatello.
June 2-4—Convention Wyoming Stock Growers' Ass'n, Torrington.
June 6-7—Convention South Dakota Stock Growers' Ass'n, Winner.
June 7-9—Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show, No. Salt Lake, Utah.
June 9-11—Convention Nebraska Stock Growers' Ass'n, Scottsbluff.
June 17-18—Convention Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Ass'n, Trinidad.
June 28—Sale, Wyoming Hereford Ranch, Cheyenne.
June 29-30-July 1—Dispersion, John E. Painter & Sons, Roggen, Colo.
Aug. 23-24—National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City.
Sept. 30—New Mexico Ram Sale, Albuquerque.
Oct. 1-9—Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland, Ore.
Oct. 6-8—Highland Feeder Calf and Yearling Sale, Marfa, Tex.
Oct. 8-15—Ak-Sar-Ben Stock Show, Omaha, Neb.
Oct. 15-22—American Royal Live Stock Show, Kansas City, Mo.
Nov. 26-Dec. 3—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago.
Feb. 15-17, 1939—Convention American National Live Stock Ass'n, San Francisco.

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PRODUCTION COSTS

AN EXECUTIVE OF ONE OF THE large packing corporations has made many addresses during the past year or two in which he has urged that live-stock growers should reduce costs. It so happens that the executive referred to has had extensive service abroad, and it may be that this idea has come from his opportunity there of seeing good quality chilled beef, after long ocean shipment, offered at prices somewhat below the price of similar grades in this country; or it may be that the successful operation of South American plants by his firm, with cattle bought at very low prices, generated the notion.

However, whatever the source of his idea and the reason for stressing it, there are some other factors, quite as important as production costs, which must be considered in any impartial appraisal of the situation.

First, it might be said, however, that producers in this country have not lagged in improving breeds and in methods of finishing live stock for market. Great strides have been made in both endeavors in the past quarter century, with research staffs of numerous federal and state institutions doing much to assist. In that period, the aged steer has almost disappeared; we are largely on a cow-and-calf basis; the fat yearling today produces almost as much beef in the carcass as did the three- and four-year-old grass steers of 20 years ago; the recent cycle of drought, with resultant short feed crops, stimulated interest in perfecting cheaper methods of meat production, and much progress has been recorded.

Attention might be called to the fact that there has been constant overemphasis on production in all agricultural lines, and just as constant underemphasis on distribution. What does it profit a grower to break his neck trying to hold down production costs, while witnessing two uncontested wage increases in packing plants in a single year, seeing railroads constantly trying through every device known to collect greater revenues for the product hauled, and finally reading of consumer strikes because distributors put prices up when (if rarely) live-stock reaches a high price level but forget to put them down when prices on the hoof have sagged?

Nor can the constant rise in overhead costs be ignored. Taxes, labor, machinery, supplies—every element of cost in the operation of a ranch—remains on a high level. Much of the increase in these lines has been a result of government action, entirely beyond the control of the individual. In only one important particular, that of interest rates, have costs been substantially decreased.

All in all, Mr. Packer, if you want lower cost meats to sell the retailer, part of the responsibility is on your own shoulders. The producer will continue to strive to improve breeds and methods of production, but the process of distribution today shows far more evidence of waste and needless duplication than does the field of production. Future government policy will continue to be an important factor. That, too, is your responsibility as well as ours.

The producer buys in a controlled market. Prices he pays are arbitrarily fixed in most cases. He sells in an open market. He has absolutely no control over price, except as ruinously low prices force him to curtail operations. If costs of meat to the consumer are to be lowered, it can be brought about only by co-operation of the entire industry. If through advertising, wise planning, uniform grading of meat, etc., operations and prices can in a degree be stabilized to the benefit of both producer and consumer, and indirectly as well to the processor and distributor, the producer will do his full share.

BOASTING A BIT

THE "PRODUCER" HAS GROWN up. It is now starting its twentieth year. And therefore it is entitled to a change in style. The magazine has already gone through some streamlining in dress-up, some rearrangement in make-up. In its present issue it is modernizing a bit more by pushing ahead a month. The May number becomes the May-June issue. And henceforth it will offer its contents to you under a date line that should add to its freshness. Subscriptions, of course, are being extended a month.

Through its two decades of existence the PRODUCER has felt itself becoming stronger and more active, measuring the growth not necessarily by the customary yardstick of advertising revenue in the bank, but by its help to an industry it was created to serve.

The aim of the PRODUCER is to champion all the causes of the cattleman, to tell him all that happens in the live-stock world, to present to him the problems that he must face, and to review the live-stock news from his point of view.

The PRODUCER at times may have suffered a little in advertising receipts because of its outspokenness; but today it has more readers than it has ever had. And, coincidentally, interest in live-stock problems today is the greatest it has ever been. And there is the measure of our success.

If the PRODUCER has contributed to awakening in the cattleman interest in the problems outside his ranch that nevertheless affect him intimately, if it has stirred in him a certain discontent which makes him battle for the betterment of his industry—and we believe it has done these things—then it may be pardoned if it struts for just a moment.

FARMERS PROTEST CONTROL

THERE HAVE BEEN RUMBLINGS recently in the Corn Belt as the drastic powers of the secretary under the new farm bill are being revealed. In other sections of the country, particularly the cotton growing states, there is similar discontent. How serious it will become, or in what direction it will move, only time can tell.

It can be granted that those in authority are making a sincere effort to solve a very complex problem. But why they should acquiesce in activities of other branches of the government that are entirely inconsistent with the farm program and can only make it more difficult of operation is hard to understand.

Already farmers are being warned that even more drastic curtailment of acreage planted in major crops may be necessary next year if present predictions for large crops this year are fulfilled. That being true, farmers and live-stock producers cannot understand why more and more of the domestic market for many of the products of the home and ranch is being traded away by Secretary Hull under his reciprocal trade or Santa Claus-to-the-world policy, with little or nothing in return. It just does not make sense.

At the same time that the whole effort of price maintenance is centered on control of production, government aid is given to the railroads in their drive for increased revenues, thus increasing distribution costs. It is strange that no department of the government is willing to tackle the problem of distribution. Difficult though it may be, it offers more hope of lasting benefit to our economic structure than does constant reduction in production. It begins to appear that

the latter course creates as many new problems as it solves.

An important but little mentioned result of the current farm program is the inevitable effect it will have on land values. If a man owns 160 acres of choice land, specially valuable for the production of wheat, corn, cotton, sugar cane, or sugar beets, and he is only allowed to operate it to 75 per cent of its capacity, that very definitely reduces the value of the land. At the same time the needs of local governments are such that taxes cannot be decreased in proportion.

On the whole, the farm problem seems no nearer permanent solution now than it did five years ago. There will be many protests from farm and ranch as the program develops. On the basis of those protests eventually a permanent program will evolve.

It seems to us that its chances of success will depend to a great extent upon the degree to which the activities of various branches of the government are co-ordinated.

THEORY RULES THE TARIFF

WASHINGTON AND THE COUNTRY has heard a great deal about tariffs and their effect on agriculture during the past month or two: Testimony pro and con from Secretary Hull's hearings on the British and Canadian agreements; utterances against the pacts from all branches of agriculture; propoganda for the pacts from newly created "councils." It is therefore probable that what we are to say here is only repetition; but we believe it should be repeated.

Promises are that we shall regain our lost agricultural export trade. Everybody wants to hope so, but will we? Can we jump back to our prewar trade of 13, 14, 15 per cent of exports of agricultural production from our recent and present 5, 6, or 7 per cent exports? Many changes have taken place in foreign lands in the past few years. Several good buyers have gone completely "self-sufficient;" others are exporting now instead of buying; some are even going into the business of making pork for us to buy; those who have taken much of our cotton market, for instance, intend to keep it. Can the trade pacts with their tariff concessions change all this?

Claims are made that imports would steady erratic upswings in the market, thus tending to stabilize prices. But the greater the cut in tariff, the lower the level at which this price stabilizing influence would be exerted. Fairness to domestic producers demands that competition be limited to such an extent that prices can be maintained at reasonably remunerative levels.

Impression seems to be that the United States is a country of sky-high tariffs. Is it? E. Clemens Horst, whose business is agriculture and whose hobby is tariffs, has figures to show that only 11 nations have a tariff tax (meaning the duties collected on imports) which in 1935 averaged lower than ours, while 27 averaged higher. The average tariff tax of the 38 nations was 24 per cent. Ours was 17 per cent. "So those who tell you the United States is a high tariff nation are speaking out of starry-eyed emotion rather than out of solid economics," says the *Pacific Rural Press* in setting forth Horst's figures.

Industry and labor would profit in a tariff trade in which agriculture gives a little, they tell us. That may be true, but there is no justice for agriculture in such a trade. Have not industry and labor always had the advantage in tariff rates?

In other words, the tariff changers want to throw the practical aspects out the window; theories have become the base on which to fix our tariffs.

Fritz Kracht

FRITZ KRACHT, STOCKMAN OF Meeker, Colorado, passed away recently. He was 51 years old.

Mr. Kracht was born in Germany. His first location in this country was at Omaha, where he stayed with his father for some time before the two came on to Meeker. Some time later young Kracht started working for the K Bar T ranch owned by Ezra K. Baer, and continued that association to the time of his death. He also operated a ranch of his own near Meeker.

Mr. Kracht was a member of the American National Live Stock Association of long standing.

Tom Pollock

LIVE-STOCK INTERESTS OF THE Southwest suffered a loss in the recent passing of Tom Pollock, who died as the result of a heart attack at his home at Flagstaff, Arizona.

He was credited with having done more than any other man in fostering the development of the live-stock industry of his home territory. He was northern Arizona's best known banker and owned the Chino Valley Land and Cattle Company and other live-stock properties in the northern part of the state.

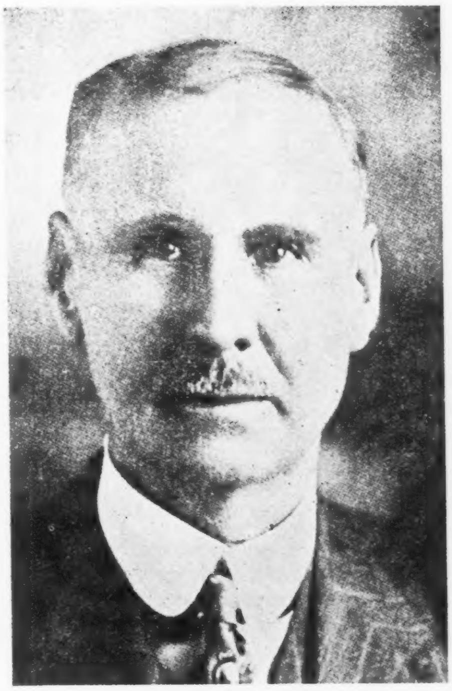
J. C. Mitchell

J. C. MITCHELL, CALIFORNIA CATTLEMAN, passed away on April 5 at Yreka, California. Mr. Mitchell was well known to cattlemen in California, Oregon, and Nevada, having bought cattle in those states for more than half a century.

Dr. John M. Buck

DR. JOHN M. BUCK, SUPERINTENDENT of the Federal Animal Disease Station at Beltsville, Maryland, died suddenly May 2 from an apoplectic stroke. He was widely known as an investigator of animal diseases and was the author of many publications and scientific articles in that field.

Doctor Buck was born in Acton, Maine, in 1878. He graduated from the veterinary college of Ohio State University in 1907. He had long been associated with the Bureau of Animal Industry.



J. M. MACFARLANE

J. M. Macfarlane

WESTERN CATTLEMEN LOST AN outstanding fellowman in the death May 3 of J. M. Macfarlane, cattleman, of Salt Lake City, Utah. Mr. Macfarlane was well known to hundreds of ranchers throughout the West. Funeral was held May 5, with representatives of both church and government present.

For many years he had been president of the Utah Cattle and Horse Growers' Association. For many years, also, he was chief brand inspector for the State of Utah.

His death robs the American National Live Stock Association of a loyal and earnest leader, who had helped in its councils for more than twenty years. He always took a leading part in the forming of policies for the association.

Will G. West

WILL G. WEST, Kansas live-stock commissioner and secretary of the Kansas Live Stock Association, died at Neodesha, Kansas, on April 25. He was 54 years old.

Mr. West was a native of Kansas. He attended the Kansas University. Upon graduation he spent a year in the Army and later engaged in wheat and live-stock production.

He was named to the post of live-stock commissioner a year ago to fill the vacancy left by the death of J. H. Mercer, of Topeka, Kansas. At the same time he took over the duties of secretary of the Kansas Live Stock Association, an office also previously held by Mr. Mercer.

GOVERNMENT

WASHINGTON NOTES

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S LARGE scale spending program put before Congress and the people in mid-April recommended some $4,500,000,000 for continued lending, spending, and credit expansion. Appropriation of $1,550,000,000 was requested for relief. He asked $1,250,000,000 for the WPA, $175,000,000 for the Farm Security Administration, $75,000,000 for National Youth Administration, $50,000,000 for CCC camps. For easily accessible credit for business men, President Roosevelt planned to release $1,400,000,000 of the administration's gold nest egg and to have the Federal Reserve Board reduce its bank reserve deposits by $750,000,000. He asked for renewal of public works projects requiring $1,462,000,000—$1,000,000,000 grant to states, $300,000,000 for the Federal Housing Authority, $100,000,000 for public roads, $37,000,000 for flood control, $25,000,000 for federal buildings. Later presidential messages suggested legislation to eliminate tax-exempt bonds, to require federal and state employes to pay income taxes, and to strengthen the laws against monopoly.

* * *

President Roosevelt in mid-April signed the Glass-Stegall bill to make $1,500,000,000 which the RFC has on hand available for loans to private business; to states, counties, and municipalities for construction projects; and to railroads, but only after ICC approval . . . No congressional action was needed for release of $1,400,000,000 of sterilized gold, suggested in the President's credit recommendations, or for increase in credit through reduction of reserve requirements of banks . . . First legislation in line with the pump-priming program was appropriation of $50,000,000 which keeps open 300 CCC camps scheduled to have closed July 1 . . . The House bill appropriating $903,000,000 for the Department of Agriculture during the next fiscal year carries $201,000,000 for the building of new roads—another of the President's suggestions . . . A bill that fits in with the program to be considered by the House provides for appropriations totaling some $3,012,000,000. Appropriations would be made to the agencies which are to do the spending. The measure provides about $1,250,000,000 for relief to February, 1939.

* * *

Senate-House conferees, reaching an agreement on the tax bill, retained the basic principles of the undistributed profits tax but limited it to two years and set it at a low rate, as provided in the House bill; but the capital gains tax was simplified, as provided in the Senate version. Small firms are freed from the tax on undistributed profits, but in many instances will pay higher taxes because of an increase in normal rates. Maximum rate for larger corporations is higher than the 18 per cent maximum in the Senate bill but lower than in the original House measure. Corporations with debt and impaired capital problems are given special treatment to protect them from the levy on undistributed profits. The six-cents-a-pound excise tax on imported pork products was eliminated. The Senate had previously rejected a proposal to add $212,000,000 farm processing taxes.

* * *

Bottled tightly for a while in the rules committee and appearing dead for this session, the wage-hour bill has now been assured a vote in the House by the signature of 218 members to a petition to bring the bill before the body. President Roosevelt, not approving or disapproving the new bill, said that the House should have opportunity to pass judgment on some measure to put a floor under wages and a ceiling over hours in industry. Outstanding features of the new measure are: Initial establishment of a minimum wage of 25 cents and a 44-hour week, and gradual revision of those standards to reach a goal of "40-40" in three years; creation of an independent five-man agency to fix and administer the standards; exemption of agricultural, seasonal, railroad, and many other workers; restriction to industries operating in interstate commerce. The Senate has passed a wage-hour bill, but there are wide differences in the two measures.

* * *

Application of eastern lines to increase their passenger coach fares from 2 to 2½ cents a mile has been rejected by the Interstate Commerce Commission. The boost would have yielded an estimated $30,000,000 annually in additional revenue. . . . To the railroads' idea of a wage cut as relief from their financial predicament came the answer from the Railway Labor Executives Association that wage cuts were out of the question . . . President Roosevelt has made it clear that he is opposed to a federal subsidy to the railroads and to federal ownership and operation of the roads. His rail message included request for revision of reorganization procedure, temporary relaxation on RFC loans to roads, consideration of other forms of government credit, and a $300,000,000 appropriation for loans to railroads for purchase of equipment . . . Vote against the train-limit bill in the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce was 14 to 7. Under the bill, which passed the Senate at the last regular session, railroads would have been forbidden to haul trains more than 70 cars in length, empties as well as loaded

cars . . . The Pettengill long-and-short-haul bill was reported favorably by the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee in late April. The bill passed the House last session.

* * *

Amendment of the Motor Carrier Act to exempt from regulations vehicles hauling live stock and agricultural commodities, provided other property or passengers for compensation are not carried, has been introduced in the House and Senate and sent to interstate commerce committees.

* * *

Ernest Kelly, who has had charge of the Bureau of Dairy Industry's investigational work in market-milk problems since 1912, has been named assistant chief of the bureau. He will assist O. E. Reed, chief of the bureau, in planning and co-ordinating the research work and in determining its policies. He will continue, however, to serve also as chief of the Division of Market-Milk Investigations. . . . From the Soil Conservation Service, Dr. William G. McGinnies will go to the Southwestern Forest and Range Experiment Station at Tucson, Arizona, July 1 next. Dr. McGinnies has served in the Forest Service as forest ranger and grazing assistant to assistant range examiner in the Southwest and in Montana. He was assistant professor at the University of Arizona in 1926, became assistant professor to the head of the departments of range management in the agricultural college and experiment station, and later had charge of the department of botany. . . . S. C. Scribner, who has served on the Idaho, Salmon, and Targhee forests and for three decades has been active with the Forest Service, is soon to retire. He has also been in the Ogden, Utah, office.

* * *

Possibility that the AAA will try to place 1,600,000 cows on 8,000,000 southern cotton states farms was broached recently by Harry L. Brown, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, according to press reports. He said that families on that many farms need the dairy products from two cows apiece. He believed such cows would cut little if any into the present national market and said that regulations would prevent a supply increase of more than 10 per cent.

* * *

Senator McCarran's national theft measure, designed to make a federal offense of the practice of moving stolen live stock across state lines, has passed the Senate and is pending in the House.

* * *

Purpose of a law approved by President Roosevelt on April 7, putting the wool top exchange under regulation of the Commodity Exchange Act, is to correct abuses or unfair acts growing out of trading in top futures. "Tops," or "wool tops," is the commercial term applied to wool that has been processed by being sorted, scoured, carded, and combed—rope-like strands composed only of the long fibres in parallel arrangement. It is in this form that the commodity is traded in for future delivery. . . . A bill is before Congress to clarify the powers and position of the Federal Trade Commission in compelling the labeling af fabrics for the information of purchasers.

* * *

Basic principles of a new "national progressives" party include (1) ownership and control of money and credit by the public; (2) "necessary steps to restore to every American the absolute right to earn his living by the sweat of his brow;" (3) belief in basic concepts of American government; (4) security on farm and in city founded not on producing less for more or working less for more, but a security founded on definite, decent annual income; (5) opposition to every form of "coddling or spoon-feeding."

* * *

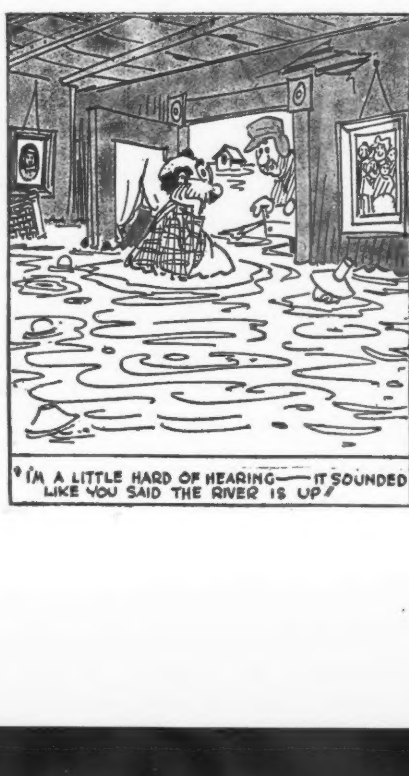
For the three years prior to last March 1, the AAA and the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation spent for purchases of commodities nearly $55,000,000. Three billion pounds of foodstuffs bought by the corporation have been distributed to persons on relief through state relief agencies. Purchases have been made at an average rate of 2,000,000 pounds a day for every day since the surplus removal programs of the AAA were started.

* * *

Oleomargarine for table use in veterans' hospitals was barred by the House of Representatives recently, the vote being 289 to 15. . . . A bill which would prohibit the manufacture and sale of margarine in the United States has been introduced in Congress. The proposal is modeled after a similar law which has been in effect in Canada for 10 years.

* * *

The AAA has allotted 62,500,000 acres to 42 wheat producing states under the 1938 farm program . . . Tobacco producers, voting on AAA marketing quotas—the fourth election held since the crop control law was enacted—expressed an affirmative majority of 87 per cent . . . Great Plains' goal for returning poor crop land to permanent grass is announced by the AAA as 6,000,000 acres. The state goals are: Colorado, 1,375,000 acres; Kansas, 750,000 acres; Montana, 875,000 acres; Nebraska, 425,000 acres; New Mexico, 150,000; North Dakota, 1,025,000; Oklahoma, 300,000; South Dakota, 550,000; Texas, 425,000; Wyoming, 125,000.



"I'M A LITTLE HARD OF HEARING—IT SOUNDED LIKE YOU SAID THE RIVER IS UP!"

* * *

Congress is aiming for adjournment late in May.

CONGRESSMEN TESTIFY IN PACT HEARING

AMONG THOSE TESTIFYING BEfore the Committee for Reciprocity Information in the hearing on the reciprocal trade agreement with Canada in early April were Representatives Harry B. Coffee (Nebraska) and Phil Ferguson (Oklahoma) and Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney (Wyoming). All three witnesses protested against further reduction of tariffs or increased quotas on live stock or its products in the proposed pact.

Representative Coffee said that 57 per cent of the national farm income was derived from live stock and that this "most important component part of agriculture" needed safeguarding. The western cattle- and sheepmen had had but two years of profit since 1930, he said, but industrial prosperity would follow the restoration of agricultural purchasing power, far more important to the American industrialist and factory worker than the restoration of purchasing power in some foreign country. Tariff acts since 1921 indicate that high tariffs have been provided on most industrial products and low ones on live stock and agriculture in general, he said.

He pointed out that live-stock markets are very sensitive to the law of supply and demand, needing but a small surplus of cattle on any one market to break the price 25 cents a hundred.

Foreign fresh or chilled meats are also a threat to the industry, he stated, citing improvements in refrigeration and handling methods that have enabled Australia and New Zealand greatly to increase shipments of chilled beef to distant ports, and the differential between United Kingdom (where much Australian and New Zealand beef is shipped) and New York prices is such that any reduction in the present rates would invite such chilled beef into our markets.

If the tariff on the 175- to 700-pound animals is lowered, Representative Coffee said, Mexico would be the principal beneficiary, and in view of what has happened there recently "it is unthinkable that any concession would be made on this class of cattle."

He posed the question: "Can you justify reducing the tariff or increasing the quota on any imported livestock at a time when millions of dollars from the federal treasury are being spent to reduce production?"

Testimany by Senator O'Mahoney showed that in 1928 the percentage of imports to the domestic inspected slaughter was 6.3 per cent, and the price on the farm was 9.12 cents, not "an immaterial matter which can be lightly tossed aside." The federal government does not begin to get such a rate upon the money which it borrows from the taxpayers and investors for the purpose of enabling it to finance the live-stock industry, he said.

Comparable figures for 1929 were given as 7.2 per cent, with the price at 9.15 cents, these growing imports calling for the Smoot-Hawley tariff, following which, in 1931, the import figure was down to 1.3. Nineteen thirty-two conditions, he said, could not be regarded as a yardstick because of the depression. In 1936 the import percentage had risen to 5.1 per cent, and in 1937 to 6.1 per cent. In 1937, he said, the imports were up to 1928 levels, but prices far below—$6.95. Therefore, this was no time to invite additional importations.

If importations from Argentina, Canada, and Mexico were converted into terms of cattle, upwards of 1,000,000 head of cattle would be shown to be coming into the country yearly. "Are we going to invite a continuation of that?" he asked.

Representative Ferguson pointed out to the committee that the possibility of further concessions to Canada "has a bad psychological effect on our already weakened cattle market."

There are 2,000,000 cattle now on feed in the United States that will be marketed within the next five months' period, which may represent, considering the cost at which they were put on feed, a loss of $30,000,000, he said. "With our feeders faced with the minimum loss of $30,000,000 in this year's operations, certainly it is bad psychology to consider concessions that would tend to lower the present market."

He read a letter from H. A. Powell, secretary of the St. Louis Live Stock Exchange, which stated that an increase over 20 loads of steers "of only 10 or 15 loads of steers, making the total offering from 30 to 35 cars, frequently means a draggy market and prices 15 cents to 25 cents lower." Representative Ferguson presented other letters showing the depressing effect of Canadian cattle on domestic markets.

"With the narrow demand for our domestic produced beef that now exists, I know I speak the sentiments of the entire live-stock industry and the group of congressmen that I represent in requesting that there be no reduction in our tariff on chilled beef," the Congressman said.

MARKETS

NO OPTIMISM

(Continued from page 6)

means that the once profitable export outlet has been impaired by nullification. Of what advantage is a limited export outlet when every pound sold is offset by so much bought? Eliminate hog product trade with England, and the business would practically disappear.

Lamb Crop Adequate

A lamb crop fully equal to the country's needs is at the development stage. Feeders have disposed of their Colorado and Nebraska holdings, the winter-made crop has been sold elsewhere, and the market is on a new-crop basis. That movement began in April when California invaded the eastern market and Arizona made initial consignments to Kansas City. Early trade in spring lambs was on a $9 to $9.50 basis; old croppers were cleaned up at $8.50 to $9. A bare spot during May will be of short duration, as, following California, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Missouri will load heavily, followed by both Virginias. Later the Corn Belt will market one of the heaviest spring lamb runs from that area, and the northwestern movement will be fully normal. Indications point to an $8.50 to $8.75 market for the bulk of new-crop lambs. Feeders are talking $5 to $6 per cwt. for thin lambs at range loading points next fall. A somnolent wool market is against the prices of lambs; any recovery will furnish material aid.

Early consignments of Texas calves were afforded a cordial reception at eastern markets. Chicago paid $8 to $8.75 for steers weighing 350 to 425 pounds; $8.25 for 400-pound heifer calves. The entire Corn Belt needs cattle, and, as purchasing weight is difficult, calves and light yearlings will be taken. A reduction of 10 per cent in corn acreage, provided the new AAA regulations are complied with, will not seriously affect demand for western cattle, as land put in soybeans and other roughage will of necessity be pastured, and, should any considerable quantity of corn go under seal, cattle feeders will meet the emergency by shortening feeding periods—an economic process deserving commendation.

HIDE UNDERTONE FIRM, WOOL TRADE EXPANDS

BY JAMES E. POOLE

HIDE TRADE HAS DEVELOPED a firm undertone during the past 30 days. Prices are not perceptibly higher, but at the new scale of values considerable business is being transacted in a recently somnolent trading sphere. Packers are still carrying heavy inventories, independent packer hides having been closely sold. Country hides are firmer at strong prices. Heavy native packer steer hides are now quoted at 9½ cents, weighing 53 pounds up; extra light natives, 43 pounds down, at 9 cents; heavy Texas, 58 pounds up, 9½ cents; light Texas, 48 to 58 pounds, 9 cents. No packer steer hides are selling below 8½ cents, packer cows, 53 pounds down, moving at 8½ cents; all weights, 8½ cents.

Stocks of sole leather have been reduced to a volume where replenishment is imperative. This demand is absorbing a considerable poundage of winter hides, both steers and cows. Country hides are quoted at 7½ and 8½ cents.

Wool trade shows an expanding tendency at slightly higher prices than for several months past. Boston reports disposal, prior to arrival, of spot wools of the new clip. Improvement, both in action and values, is reported in the West and Midwest, where recent shearing has made purchasing on a moderate scale possible. Bulk of the wool moving at eastern concentration points is quarter-blood of the old clip, selling on a grease basis at 26 to 28 cents. On a scoured basis, quarter-blood is moving at 45 to 49 cents. New clip, bright "quarter" fleeces are worth 25 to 26 cents, delivered.

At Chicago, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan quarter-blood combing is worth 19 to 21 cents in the grease; three-eighths blood, 20 to 22 cents; half-blood combing, 20 to 22 cents; and fine delaine, 18 to 20 cents.

Iowa, Dakota, and Minnesota semi-bright wool is quoted at 15 to 17 cents for quarter-blood, 12 to 14 for long fine.

An opinion exists that as new clip western wools reach concentration points volume of trade will increase at more favorable prices to the grower.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

Commodity in Pounds	Apr. 1 1938†	Mar. 1 1938	Apr. 1 1937	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef	37,948,000	43,965,000	111,751,000	61,243,000
Cured beef*	12,520,000	13,058,000	30,940,000	20,833,000
Lamb and mutton	2,940,000	3,523,000	7,174,000	3,314,000
Frozen pork	189,739,000	213,433,000	328,383,000	190,102,000
Dry salt pork*	84,696,000	86,791,000	89,164,000	89,329,000
Pickled pork*	268,972,000	282,430,000	338,230,000	340,716,000
Miscellaneous	69,701,000	77,779,000	116,897,000	71,894,000
Total meats	666,516,000	720,979,000	1,022,539,000	777,431,000
Lard	121,413,000	116,979,000	217,227,000	126,885,000
Frozen poultry	78,725,000	100,493,000	120,328,000	83,002,000
Creamery butter	14,310,000	21,033,000	6,700,000	8,399,000
Eggs (case equivalent)	4,029,000	2,817,000	2,929,000	2,624,000

*Cured or in process of cure. †Subject to revision.

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK YARDS

	March 1938	March 1937	First Three Months 1938	First Three Months 1937
Receipts—				
Cattle*	1,094,474	1,138,717	3,144,327	3,209,469
Calves	531,455	588,394	1,441,501	1,551,840
Hogs	1,895,076	2,224,117	6,750,677	6,808,777
Sheep	1,739,366	1,576,270	5,407,126	5,230,510
Total Shipments†—				
Cattle*	433,117	395,769	1,137,302	1,100,362
Calves	171,449	168,378	469,660	443,892
Hogs	557,298	619,473	1,998,477	1,994,632
Sheep	670,178	620,301	2,126,336	2,143,246
Stocker and Feeder Shipments—				
Cattle*	183,890	147,637	449,330	399,208
Calves	47,553	36,139	108,766	89,073
Hogs	46,610	41,545	121,006	98,218
Sheep	79,105	60,044	256,437	252,799
Slaughtered Under Federal Inspection—				
Cattle*	809,257	825,380	2,355,206	2,401,066
Calves	509,619	591,838	1,327,831	1,512,634
Hogs	2,610,231	3,032,677	9,644,265	9,394,587
Sheep	1,427,623	1,311,638	4,403,173	4,326,947

*Exclusive of calves. †Includes stockers and feeders.

COMPARATIVE LIVE STOCK PRICES

	May 2, 1938	Apr. 1, 1938	May 3, 1937
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (1,100-1,500 lbs.)	$ 9.00-10.25	$ 9.00- 9.90	$13.25-15.50
Slaughter Steers—Good	8.25- 9.25	8.00- 9.00	11.00-14.00
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (900-1,100 lbs.)	8.75-10.00	8.75- 9.75	11.75-15.00
Slaughter Steers—Good	8.00- 9.00	8.00- 9.00	10.00-13.25
Slaughter Steers—Med. (750 lbs. up)	7.00- 8.25	7.25- 8.25	9.00-11.25*
Fed Young Steers—Good-Choice	7.50- 9.75	7.75- 9.50	9.75-13.50
Heifers—Good-Choice	7.50- 9.25	7.75- 9.50	9.50-13.00
Cows—Good	6.25- 6.75	6.00- 6.50	7.25- 8.50
Vealers—Good-Choice	7.00- 9.25	7.50-11.00	....
Calves—Good-Choice	6.00- 7.50	6.00- 8.00	6.00- 9.50
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Good-Choice	7.00- 9.00	7.00- 9.00	7.50-10.25
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med.	6.00- 7.00	6.00- 7.00	6.50- 7.75
Hogs—Medium Weights (200-250 lbs.)	8.00- 8.25	8.60- 8.95	10.10-10.40
Lambs—Good-Choice	7.60- 9.00†	7.60- 9.00	10.25-12.50†
Lambs—Good-Choice	7.00- 8.00‡	....	....
Ewes—Good-Choice	4.50- 5.25‡	4.10- 5.25	4.00- 5.25‡

*900 lbs. up. †Wooled. ‡Shorn.

WHOLESALE MEAT PRICES

	May 2, 1938	Apr. 1, 1938	May 3, 1937
Fresh Beef and Veal—			
Steers—Choice (700 lbs. up)	$14.00-15.00	$14.00-15.00	$19.00-20.00
Steers—Good	13.50-14.00	13.00-14.00	16.50-19.00
Steers—Choice (500-700 lbs.)	14.00-15.00	14.00-15.00	18.00-19.50
Steers—Good	13.50-14.00	13.00-14.00	16.00-18.50
Yearling Steers—Choice	14.00-15.00	14.00-15.00	17.50-18.50
Yearling Steers—Good	13.50-14.00	13.00-14.00	15.50-17.50
Cows—Good	12.00-13.00	11.50-12.00	13.00-14.00
Vealers—Choice	13.50-14.50	13.00-14.00	15.00-16.00
Vealers—Good	12.00-13.50	12.00-13.00	14.00-15.00
Fresh Lamb and Mutton—			
Lamb—Choice (45 lbs. down)	16.50-18.00	16.50-18.00	18.00-20.00
Lambs—Good	15.50-17.00	15.50-17.00	17.00-19.00
Spring Lambs—Choice (all weights)	19.00-21.00	....	....
Spring Lambs—Good	17.00-19.00	....	....
Ewes—Good	10.00-11.00	9.50-11.00	9.50-10.50
Fresh Pork Cuts—			
Loins—8-12 lb. average	17.50-19.50	17.50-19.50	21.50-24.00

GOVERNMENT REPORTS ON LIVE STOCK MARKET

SOME WEAKNESS IN PRICES OF the better grades of slaughter cattle may develop in late spring or early summer, according to April report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. But the bureau is of the opinion that prices of such cattle probably will advance seasonally in late summer or early fall, probably not marked or maintained for very long unless business improves substantially.

Prices of the lower grades are expected to be maintained near present levels during most of the spring, but they may decline in the summer and fall months as supplies increase seasonally.

Market supplies of the lower grades will continue small, seasonally, during the remainder of the spring. Recent reports indicate that shipments of grass-fat and stocker and feeder cattle from the Southwest during this period will be smaller than a year ago.

Hogs May Decline

A seasonal increase in hog marketings is expected during May and June as the market movement of 1937 fall pigs gets under way in large volume. In view of this increase and continued weak consumer demand, the bureau says that some further decline in prices appears probable in the late spring and early summer.

For the remainder of the present hog marketing year up to October 1, 1938, marketings will be considerably larger than a year earlier, though partly offset by the smaller storage stocks of pork and lard. It is expected that prices the rest of the year will average considerably lower than those of last year. But a moderate advance may occur in late summer, when supplies are seasonally reduced.

Because of continued favorable conditions for development of new crop lambs and for finishing of yearling lambs in Texas, total slaughter of sheep and lambs in May and June is expected to be larger than a year earlier.

Lamb Crop Up 15 per Cent

The early spring lamb crop is at least 15 per cent larger than the crop of 1937. The previous month it was thought that increased marketings of new crop lambs might be offset by reduced marketings of Texas yearling lambs. Although marketings of such Texas lambs during the remainder of the spring probably will be materially smaller than record marketings of a year ago, this reduction is not likely to be great enough to offset entirely the prospective increase in marketings of early spring lambs.

Prices of new crop lambs in May and June probably will continue considerably lower than those obtaining during the corresponding period a year ago.

DRIVE-INS MAKE UP OVER HALF TOTAL RECEIPTS

TOTAL "DRIVE-IN" (NONRAIL) receipts of live stock in 1937 at 17 principal markets were 52.05 per cent of the total receipts at those markets. Receipts in number of head are given below:

	Drive-ins	Percentage of Total
St. Paul	2,870,443	65.13
Chicago	2,804,476	31.74
East St. Louis	2,743,781	55.95
Indianapolis	2,395,543	94.41
Fort Worth	2,119,881	69.92
Omaha	1,952,719	47.00
Sioux City	1,546,449	73.35
Kansas City	1,230,956	32.65
St. Joseph	1,101,238	56.52
Cincinnati	1,091,708	71.13
Oklahoma City	1,021,716	87.44
Milwaukee	784,712	63.78
Wichita	622,513	78.88
Louisville	566,868	76.88
Denver	562,290	13.74
Sioux Falls	503,792	97.23
Portland	240,330	37.19
Total	24,159,415	52.05

CONCESSIONS OPPOSED

(Continued from page 8)

Then the Canadians started to move, as this table shows, and the medium cattle began to go down, and between March 28 and June 27 they went down 98 cents per hundred. It is also true that during that period the choice cattle continued to go down. They went down more than the medium cattle did; but the fact remains that, until the Canadians began to come, the medium cattle did not go along with the choice cattle, and of course you know that we have a situation in the spring of each year when the medium cattle ordinarily go up and the choice cattle ordinarily go down. That is a time of the year when very few of the common cattle come into the market. The common cattle are in greater supply when the ranges are being emptied in the fall of the year. You can see from this chart here (indicating) the medium steers at Chicago. Here (indicating) is 1934 showing these cattle going up in the fore part of the year, and here is 1935 showing these cattle going up in the fore part of the year. Here is 1937 showing that these cattle went up away along there in 1937, and here is 1936 showing that instead of going up as the normal trend of that class of cattle at that time, they actually went down. There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that the Canadians contributed to reversing the normal seasonal trend in the price of the common and medium cattle.

MR. ARNER. Wasn't there a rather rapid marketing of small and medium steers on account of the drought in that period?

MR. MOLLIN. 1936?

MR. ARNER. Yes, 1936.

MR. MOLLIN. No, the drought was in 1934.

MR. ARNER. There was one in 1936.

MR. MOLLIN. I am speaking of the spring of the year. The drought had nothing to do with that situation—

MR. ARNER (interrupting) Not for the first three or four months.

MR. MOLLIN. No. Here (indicating) is the usual market, the market usually goes up, and this year it went down.

MR. ARNER. In 1937 the trade agreement quotations were in effect? Were they not?

MR. MOLLIN. Yes, and we had a very light supply of cattle due to the drought in 1936 which developed in the summer, and when we have a light supply of cattle we have got the best market in the world.

MR. ARNER. In view of the fact that we have an adequate supply of cattle now, is it at all certain that we will continue to fill those quotas?

MR. MOLLIN. Well, I cannot say whether the quota will be filled this year or not. It may be that our price is so low that the English market is more attractive, and, if it is, they will go to England. They will do like anybody else—go where they get the highest price.

MR. FOX. Have you got a similar chart for the other type? Let us see what happened in 1936 for the other type.

MR. MOLLIN. No, but I have one for the cows. These are in competition—good and choice cows are in direct competition with medium steers—and this cow chart shows the same trend.

MR. FOX. Let me look at that a minute.

MR. MOLLIN (handing chart to Mr. Fox). Yes.

MR. FOX. I was wondering whether 1936 was the same as the other years?

MR. MOLLIN. No, sir. That is what I say, that the shipment of those common cattle in 1936 depressed that particular kind of cattle. Practically 25 per cent of the quota came in in the month of April, 1936.

MR. FOX. What is this chart (indicating)?

MR. MOLLIN. Cows. As I said, the good to choice cows are in competition with medium steers. It is a good deal the same type of beef. That is why I show that chart, because it is the same trend.

MR. FOX. How about the other? Have you that?

MR. MOLLIN. I have it in a small chart.

MR. ARNER. What we need is the choice and prime steers. That is what Mr. Fox wants.

MR. MOLLIN. Here it is.

MR. ARNER. You had better tell the committee what that shows.

MR. MOLLIN. It shows a very marked downward trend.

MR. ARNER. And what were the imports of that particular type?

MR. MOLLIN. Very little. There was an oversupply. The imports have exactly the same effect as an oversupply of our own cattle have. They put the price down, and we had an oversupply of those cattle in 1936 because of the big corn crop in 1935. There is a very sharp reduction there.

MR. ARNER. I am just interested in one observation. I see the positiveness with which we can trace the effect of the domestic situation by the imports, but we always have a valid explanation for the trend of domestic production when there are no imports.

MR. MOLLIN. We have a fluctuating market in this country at all times, and, when we have an oversupplied market, as in the spring of 1936, I do not care how little you put in, whether you put in 50 or 150 cars on the St. Paul market on any one day, you are going to depress that market. I don't care what percentage it is of the total annual slaughter. You do the same thing if you put 50 cars from the Pacific Coast on that market. Wherever you get a surplus from, you depress the market if you have an oversupply.

MR. ARNER. I am just interested in question that I would like to ask. Of course, no decision has been made as to what concession if any will be granted under this head, but, in case the concession should be granted or continued, would you suggest any changes in the weight limit that would lessen that disadvantage to American producers?

MR. MOLLIN. No, sir. I have not given that much thought, but candidly I do not think I could. We were instrumental in 1930 in getting that weight limit changed from 1,050 pounds to 700 pounds. Of course, you know at the present time that there have been more cattle coming from Mexico weighing more than 700 pounds than they expected. We did not know in the beginning the method that would be applied of generalizing the benefits, and, when we found that they were going to allow Mexican cattle in, we were a little disturbed about it. We were in convention at Phoenix and had assurances from Washington that not more than 5 per cent of the quota could come from Mexico. Instead of that, you are getting about 15 per cent of the quota. Of course, what they do, instead of shrinking the tar out of them so that they can get them in weighing less than 700 pounds, they fill them up so that they weigh more than 700 pounds.

CHAIRMAN GRADY. They fill them full of water?

MR. MOLLIN. Yes.

MR. ARNER. Would changing the weight limit from 700 to 850 pounds be any advantage?

MR. MOLLIN. No, I would oppose that. I think that the situation is serious enough and I think it is better to leave it where it is—at 700 pounds. Of course, we hope some day that we are going back to the old tariff rate, and, when we do, we should rather have that 700-pound limit than 850.

MR. DEIMEL. Of course, you understand that whether cattle come in from Canada or Mexico or anywhere else, under this tariff quota, it all counts in the total.

MR. MOLLIN. Yes, sir, I understand that, and that is why I say you have 25,000 cattle from Mexico applied on the quota. You did not expect that many, and the Canadians did not like that; but we do not think that you ought to increase the Canadian quota because they were disappointed just because you let 25,000 Mexicans come in on the quota.

MR. FOX. If I follow your testimony correctly, your concern is primarily because of the concentration of those imports in a short period?

MR. MOLLIN. Not primarily. We are concerned primarily because we have got one of the most difficult products to market that there is. We have talked about orderly marketing in this country for 25 years, and you cannot do anything about it. Unless some day we have a complete system of co-operative marketing where everybody ships when they are told to ship—well, we have these gluts on the market, and the people that are there the first day of the week get hurt. You often see a situation where you have a market that will be 25 to 50 cents lower on Monday and during the week they gradually put it back on, and they say, "the market closed steady;" whereas two-thirds of the people in that market actually suffered a decline in price of 25 cents a hundred or more. We have a situation that is so easily disturbed that we just regard this trade agreement program as adding to our troubles in attempting anything like a stable market.

"What's the matter?—See a ghost?"

MR. FOX. I understood you to say that the difficulty came because of the fact that 25 per cent of those imports came in at a concentrated time?

MR. MOLLIN. You asked me if that was the major concern. If anything practical can be done, we should like to see it done. It would be in the interests of the Canadians. As a matter of fact, the first suggestion that I had of a monthly average came from Canada. If there is anything that can be done along that line, we should like to see it done.

MR. FOX. That would help whether it is monthly or for some other period?

MR. MOLLIN. A spread, yes. We should not like to have it again like we had it in 1936.

MR. FOX. Are you at all concerned about the condition of the American market irrespective of imports? Supposing there were no imports at all, would you be concerned right now about the situation?

MR. MOLLIN. About our own market?

MR. FOX. Affecting your product.

MR. MOLLIN. Yes, sir, we would be concerned.

MR. FOX. Then there may be consideration of getting the purchasing power up?

MR. MOLLIN. Yes, but we do not think you have done so much about it yet.

MR. FOX. We are not claiming that we did. But I was wondering whether that is not an important factor.

MR. MOLLIN. Yes, we want purchasing power, and we think the American people have the best purchasing power in the world.

MR. FOX. We agree.

MR. MOLLIN. And we do not like to see anything done that upsets it.

MR. FREEMAN. I was just wondering how you would suggest that we try to administer this monthly quota that you spoke of either from our point of view or Canada's.

MR. MOLLIN. We had a meeting in Chicago in December with Canadian cattlemen to discuss the matter, and they were supposed to make some recommendations after they got home, but we did not hear anything further from them. I think they would have to administer it. I have an idea that their feeding is probably concentrated enough so that they might be able to work it out like the Colorado sheep feeders do. They know exactly how many sheep are on feed, and they give those fellows shipping orders. If the Canadians have such a situation, they might do it. I am not sufficiently informed as to their situation to know whether they could do it, but it would be to their interest if they could.

MR. FREEMAN. Of course, the United States officials are the ones who are going to have to determine whether or not the quota is filled for any particular months?

MR. MOLLIN. That is right.

MR. FREEMAN. In other words, we could not delegate our powers?

MR. MOLLIN. No; but if you established a monthly quota—and I would not recommend a monthly quota that was one-twelfth of the yearly quota; I think that would be hardly fair. If you made it one-eighth, it would allow them to fill the quota in eight months. I am just trying to be fair to them in suggesting that. But watever you decide on, they would know what the quota was and they would have to determine what was going to come in under the quota, and, if they exceeded that, it would have to come in under the full rate.

MR. FREEMAN. It seems to me it would represent such difficulties from an administrative point of view—

MR. MOLLIN (interrupting). Why? Whenever they exceeded their month's quota, they would have to pay the full duty.

MR. ARNER. If they all came in at the same port, it would be simpler.

MR. MOLLIN. You have the situation at the end of the year. You would just have to do it 12 times a year or eight times a year instead of once.

MR. FREEMAN. It is bad enough trying to work it out once a year. From an administrative point of view it does not seem to me to be a very meritorious suggestion, because it presents a lot of difficulties.

MR. MOLLIN. Well, we will leave the idea with you.

CHAIRMAN GRADY. My point in asking about the amount of money that has been spent to get back the market in this country was to bring out the point that these imports can act as a stabilizer with regard to the demand and by keeping it— For instance, I do not know, but I should suppose that if that quota had not been exhausted in August the meat prices around that time could not have gone that high and you would not have had consumer strikes and that sort of thing.

MR. MOLLIN. I do not think it would have made any difference, because there were no such cattle—prime cattle—coming from Canada. At the very time that the buyers were sending out word that the prices would have to be lowered they were saying that they would take a few long-fed cattle at any price. I knew that we were heading for trouble when I saw that market going up.

CHAIRMAN GRADY. I just have an impression that associations like yours and Mr. Holman's rather overlook the consumer's side or at least do not stress it, as I think it should be. The matter of stability of prices and a reasonable amount of imports as a stabilizer against the ups and downs of production are inevitable in any kind of an agricultural product, and they seem to me to be an important factor from the viewpoint of the consumers. People can lose the habit of eating meat or using wool or any of the agricultural products if you have a precipitous upward and downward range in prices. I do not think anybody in this trade agreements program is extreme in this matter, but a reasonable amount of imports tend to act as a stabilizer, and I was just wondering if that is not a little better than having to spend millions of dollars to try to woo the consumer back.

MR. MOLLIN. Well, we have not had an embargo in our industry. We had imports of almost 90,000,000 pounds of canned beef last year, with a tariff of 6 cents a pound. When that tariff was fixed we were told that there would not be a pound come into this country, but we are getting as much today as we did prior to 1930 at the lower rate. We have had cattle come from Canada and Mexico despite the previous tariff where you lowered the duty.

CHAIRMAN GRADY. Not very much, though.

MR. MOLLIN. Of course, not during the depression, but there would have been fairly substantial receipts when the prices were up.

CHAIRMAN GRADY. That canned beef is for a restricted market. It is essentially a poor man's food, isn't it?

MR. MOLLIN. Not entirely. It is used in the luncheon trade and camps all over the country, and I have a report of some South American canned beef unloaded in New York City stamped "Especially for CCC Camps."

CHAIRMAN GRADY. That is all. Thank you very much.

CANADIAN HOUSEWIVES GET "NEW DEAL" IN BEEF

MEAT DEALERS ACROSS THE Canadian continent are watching British Columbia's new Beef Grading Act. Passed last summer, the new law supplants a previous measure calling for voluntary grading of beef.

The problem, says Louis Lebourdais in the *Vancouver Province*, "has been for the ranchers to get sale for their best beef and for the dealers to have on hand always dependable meat for distribution to the housewives. On their side, the householder's problem has been to get the best meat at a moderate price. As everybody knows, too, she has not the advantage of expert technical knowledge in selecting cuts."

"Many times she has been fooled with the sign 'prime beef' above cuts that are merely discards from some dairy herd or inferior steer," says Mr. Lebourdais, the author of the Beef Grading Law.

This summer all the beef sold in British Columbia's three largest cities will be marked either A, B, C, or D.

Ottawa instituted voluntary beef grading some years ago, but now the grading is compulsory for retail sale in Vancouver, Victoria, and New Westminster.

Grade A, under the new regulations, will include cuts from well-finished steers of choice eating quality. Grade B will be good steers and heifers which may be lacking somewhat in conformation while "possibly would eat as well as grade A." Grade C is from medium quality steers, heifers, and good cows. Grade D is of fair steers, heifers, and medium cows—a grade that "lacks the eating quality and the finish of grades A, B, and C."

FEEDSTUFFS PRICES

Cottonseed cake and meal was quoted on May 10 at $22 a ton, f. o. b. Texas points. Hay prices, carlot, on May 9 at Omaha were: Alfalfa—choice leafy, $17 and $18; No. 1, $15 and $16; standard leafy, $13.50 to $14.50; standard, $12 to $13; No. 2, $11 to $12; No. 3, $9 to $10; upland prairie—No. 1, $11.50 to $12; No. 2, $10 to $11; No. 3, $7 to $9; midland prairie—No. 1, $10 to $11; No. 2, $7.50 to $9.50; mixed hay—No. 1, $11 to $12; No. 2, $10 to $10.50; No. 3, $7 to $9.50.

FOREIGN

ENGLISH LIVE STOCK LETTER

BY J. RAYMOND

LONDON, APRIL 7, 1938.—BRITISH producers are passing through a comparatively uneventful period. As was to be expected, the heavy slaughterings in connection with the autumn and winter outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease have resulted in an all-round shortage of store cattle, with fat cattle values steady. As the season of spring lamb is just getting into its stride, no immediate improvement in cattle prices is anticipated, and the bad effects of the shortage of store cattle may be tempered by the seasonal deflection on the demand from beef to lamb.

The government's warfare against foot-and-mouth disease has been intensified by the coming into operation of the new state veterinary service established under the agricultural act. Official opinion is definite that the recent outbreaks all had a Continental origin, and it is also unanimous that the slaughter policy, while its immediate results upon the home cattle trade may be temporarily destructive, is the safest and best in the long run. Under the new scheme, all public veterinary functions, hitherto exercised by the veterinary officers of local authorities, have been transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture, the ministry's full-time veterinary staff having been more than trebled. In addition to the attack upon foot-and-mouth disease, research has been put in hand at once in connection with the eradication of bovine tuberculosis and contagious abortion. The new Attested Herds Scheme has been extended to permit the payment of a bonus, not only upon milk, but also in regard to herds maintained for beef production. Quite 40 per cent of the owners of beef herds have already qualified for attestation, and a bonus payment of about $5 per head will be made in respect of every tuberculosis-free animal submitted for testing and grading under the scheme.

For the operation of the new state veterinary service, Great Britain has been divided into 78 divisions, and the divisions have been grouped into 22 areas. It is hoped that within the next ten years contagious abortion in Britain's cattle herds will be a thing of the past and that the incidence of bovine tuberculosis in both dairy and beef herds will be reduced to a negligible level.

Help for Pig Producers

In the meantime the Minister of Agriculture has presented his new bill containing the government's proposals for the reorganization and assistance of the bacon and pig industries of Great Britain. The cost of the proposals to the Exchequer is estimated to average about $5,000,000 in a full year. Assistance will be limited in the first year to 2,100,000 pigs, in the second to 2,400,000, and in the third to 2,500,000 pigs. The bill provides for the establishment of a new Bacon Development which will exercise its functions in consultation with the existing pig and bacon boards.

Provision is made for the submission, approval, amendment, and revocation of a factory "rationalization" scheme for the purpose of regulating the extent of the facilities for producing bacon and increasing the efficiency of the industry. Every factory producing bacon must be licensed by the Development Board and must eventually conform to certain standards as regards hygiene, equipment, and convenience for receiving supplies of pigs. Provision is made for the regulation of sales and purchases of pigs, for the enforcement of annual contracts, and, for a period of three years, for payments to and from the Exchequer in respect of pigs sold on annual contracts and turned into bacon. The quantities and kinds of bacon which may be produced or sold by any licensed curer are to be regulated.

Provision is also made regarding the wages and conditions of employees of licensed curers, for the continuance of the import quotas, and for the contribution by producers and curers to the expenses of the Development Board and the two marketing boards. The Development Board will submit to the government an annual program for the carrying out of research and education at a cost of about $250,000 per annum to be borne by the industry. The bill, which does not extend to Northern Ireland, embodies severe penalties which may be imposed by the Development Board for contravention of the regulations. The Bacon Development Board will have power to close redundant or poorly equipped or unsuitably located curing premises, with the payment of compensation by arbitration. In effect, the Board will have permanent control of the industry in Great Britain.

Markets Show an Improvement

At the moment a feature of many of the markets in England and Wales is the smaller supplies of fat cattle forward, with buyers plentiful and the trade fairly brisk. The best grades of steers and heifers are fetching around $11.20 per live cwt. Store cattle are too dear to attract buyers; in Wales, sellers are making up to $13 per live cwt., but the general average in England is $85 per head for two-year-olds and $56 for yearlings. Irish stores are fetching $100 per head for forward steers for export to Liverpool and the West Country.

Fat sheep are clearing well, best Down types averaging 22 cents per pound in the English markets and 20 cents in Scotland. Full-month store ewes are fetching around $11.50, and tegs and hoggs are selling at $10.20.

Porkers and baconers are steady at approximately $3.50 per score, but store pigs are making less money than of late, pigs aged 8 to 10 weeks being quoted at $6 and pigs 12 to 16 weeks old averaging $10, the demand being variable but likely to improve now that the government has declared its policy in regard to pig production and marketing.

Production Figures

According to the Ministry of Agriculture's figures on the estimated value of agricultural and horticultural output in England and Wales, practically all commodities showed an increase for 1937 as compared with the previous year. The total value is estimated to have been $103,000,000 in 1937—an increase of $73,500,000 as compared with the figures for 1936. The combined value of the output of live stock and live-stock products, which has been increased continually since 1931-32, amounted to $760,500,000—an increase of $34,500,000.

Increases were recorded for each of the items in the live stock and live-stock products group except poultry and eggs, which showed reductions of 8 and 2 per cent, respectively, as against increases of 6 per cent for cattle and calves, 4 per cent for sheep and lambs, 12 per cent for pigs, 3 per cent for milk and dairy produce, and 63 per cent for wool.

Cattle subsidy payments in respect of England and Wales last year amounted to $14,150,000 as against $13,650,000 in 1936 and $9,550,000 in 1935.

LIVE STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALIA

BY A. C. MILLS

MELBOURNE, MARCH 15.—THE beef export season is opening with relatively favorable prospects. Though there are still some dry areas in the north, the great bulk of the cattle country has received good monsoonal rains and is assured of feed well into the winter. What is of equal importance to fatteners is that the initial prices being paid by packers in Queensland are better than those ruling at the commencement of last season. Then cattlemen were offered $6.70 per 100 pounds for g.a.q. steers and $6 for f.a.q. steers delivered at south Queensland packing plants; $6.25 and $5.50, respectively, in the central division; and to $5.50 for g.a.q. and $4.80 for f.a.q. grades in the north.

The buying rate for March delivery in the south this year is $7.50 per 100 pounds for first quality steers, $6.70 for

second quality, and $6 for third. In the central division it is $7, $6.25, and $5.50, and in the north $6.50, $5.75, and $5. While the opening prices are not expected to be maintained when supplies become more plentiful (as a matter of fact a drop of 50 cents in the south is already announced for April delivery), there are reasons to anticipate that the average run will be at least as high as in 1937, which, incidentally, was the best for some years.

Three Grades Established

It may be noticed by the above that 1938 prices cover three grades, whereas those for 1937 contain mention of two only. The change from two to three is the outcome of a recommendation on beef grading made last year by the Australian Meat Board and subsequently approved and gazetted by federal government. The recommendation was prompted by a long standing complaint by cattlemen that the spread in price between the g.a.q. (good average quality) and f.a.q. (fair average quality) grades was too narrow to encourage the production of high-grade steers. Ross Grant, a commonwealth veterinary officer who acts as federal meat grading supervisor, was asked to go into the matter and report to the meat board. This he did and recommended that while two grades—designated first and second—should be retained in relation to export chilled beef, there should be three grades with frozen export beef; i. e., first, second, and third.

The reason advancd by Ross Grant for the change was that the provision of a third-quality grade would bring about an improvement in the second-quality standard, as a percentage of the lower quarters then included in the second grade would automatically fall into the lower category. He recognized that the percentage of beef classed as third would vary in accordance with seasonal conditions. In good years it would be comparatively light, whereas in unfavorable times the third grade would prove of considerable benefit in maintaining the standard of the higher grades.

The new system came into operation at the beginning of the present year, and it is too early yet to say whether it will work altogether to the benefit of the producer. As already noted, the immediate effect of its adoption has been a range of three prices quoted by Queensland packers as against the previous two. Obviously it must be the percentage of beef that goes into first, second, and third grades that will determine if the average price is higher this than last season. Other things being equal, I think it will be. One reason for saying this is that overseas markets are firmer than early in 1937. Practically 90 per cent of Australian export beef is now sold in Great Britain where, thanks to restrictions placed on supplies from South America, a general rationing of the market, and improved industrial conditions increasing consumption, prices today are fully 1½ cents a pound better than 12 months ago.

Co-operative Meat Plant

Buying conditions of cattle at the Wyndham meat works, on the extreme northwest coast of Western Australia, are quite different from those obtaining in Queensland. This plant is owned by the Western Australian government and is run, more or less, on a co-operative basis for the benefit of cattle owners in that isolated territory. The buying contract provides for payment on delivery at the works of a basic price of $2.40 per 100 pounds for first quality beef, and of $1.68 for second grade. For beef not accepted for export but passed for local consumption or canning the rate is $1.20, and for condemned, 66 cents. Compared with what is offering in Queensland, these rates appear to be out of all reasonable proportion, but I may explain that suppliers of cattle to Wyndham are promised 90 per cent of profits not exceeding $200,000 accruing to the works from the sales of the meat and by-products, 70 per cent of profits between $200,000 and $625,000, and 50 per cent of profits in excess of $625,000.

As 80 per cent of all land in Queensland is held under lease from government, the question of rent is of vital importance to primary producers. There are a variety of types of leases in force, but by far the largest area (more than 60 per cent of that occupied for any purpose) is held under what are known as pastoral leases. The rent of these is subject to re-appraisement every few years (10, I think), of which 1938 is one. The rent is determined by land courts, and in the past the prime factor in fixing the annual rate has been the estimated carrying capacity of the land concerned, which takes into consideration contour, natural feed, incidence of rainfall, and permanent water supplies.

While that system works fairly well when values of products are on a payable level, it has obvious disadvantages when stock and wool have to be sold at below production cost. The Queensland government has been brought to recognize this fact, and has instructed the land court to conduct an inquiry into the economic conditions of the grazing industry, both of cattle and sheep, trends of values, and future prospects as a preliminary to a fresh determination of rents.

The court already has heard a good deal of evidence, not the least interesting being that submitted on behalf of cattle breeders. In this, special emphasis has been laid on the point that the supposedly remunerative prices lately received can only partially recompense cattle producers for losses sustained in previous years, and that it must take many years ofpayable prices and of good seasons to restore those engaged in the industry to a normal economic position. The court has also been told that many growers have not been in a position to maintain or to improve their herds and properties, due to the fact that circumstances have long necessitated economy.

Figures to support the latter contention were quoted from annual reports of the state income tax commissioner. These showed that of the 2,554 owners of over 300 head of cattle in Queensland in 1936 only 908, with an aggregate taxable income of $3,687,205, figured as income taxpayers, those returns including the large pastoral companies. The percentage of cattle-owning taxpayers to all taxpayers in 1936 was 4.197.

FROM FOREIGN FIELDS

DRASTIC "STANDSTILL" ORDER issued in the record outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in England the early part of April affected 2,000,000 to 5,000,000 animals, banning movement of cattle in all but six counties of England. The order did not prevent marketing of fat stock intended for immediate slaughter. . . . A number of new members have been added by England's Minister of Agriculture to the committee in charge of research into foot-and-mouth disease, for the suggested purpose of attempting to find an alternative to the slaughter policy in ridding the country of the plague. . . . Up to the end of December the latest outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease had involved the British government in an outlay of about $1,180,000 compensation to farmers for slaughtered live stock. . . . Losses of nearly $100,000,000 have been caused by foot-and-mouth disease in western Europe in the past six months, according to the International Institute of Agriculture. . . . It is reported that the director of the Veterinary Research Institute at Moedling, near Vienna, has succeeded in making visible the virus of foot-and-mouth disease. The expert is said to be experimenting with the object of producing a serum for inoculation purposes.

* * *

Proposal to build up an export trade in frozen meat from Abyssinia for Italian consumption has received conditional approval from the Italian government, according to report. Italy has hitherto depended largely upon imports of meat from South Africa.

* * *

Eleven veterinary surgeons have been sentenced to death in Russia on charges of having caused the deaths of 90,000 cattle since 1932 by spreading typhus baccilli, according to a report carried in *Pastoral Review* (Melbourne).

* * *

Canada's reindeer herd, located on the northern rim of the continent, has wintered in excellent condition, according to report to the Canadian Department of Mines and Resources. The animals are now in their fawning season, which usually starts about the middle of April and continues until about the end of May. The original 2,370 animals had at the last round-up in July, 1937, developed to a herd of more than 4,000. The deer are now on their way to the summer range on Richards Island, a short distance off the mainland.

* * *

In an effort to supply the bulk of its sausage casing requirements by domestic and synthetic casings and thus avoid imports of natural casings, Germany produced more than 100,000,000 meters of synthetic casings in 1937.

* * *

The Indians of Canada are not a van-ishing race. Their numbers have varied considerably during the last 30 years, declining from 110,000 in 1907 to 104,000 in 1924, but latest returns issued by the Canadian Department of Mines and Resources show that there are now approximately 114,000 Indians resident in the Dominion.

* * *

The Philippine Assembly has passed the second reading of a bill appropriating 100,000 pesos for a live-stock exchange and to establish in Manila a slaughterhouse with refrigeration, which will slaughter animals and store and sell the meat for live-stock raisers.

* * *

Sweden has proclaimed an embargo on export of hogs because of pressing demand from Denmark threatening Swedish pig population to the point of preventing her from filling her British bacon quota and probably causing summer pork scarcity.

* * *

Latvian importers of wool and arti-ficial wool must buy home-grown wool to the extent of 5 per cent of the weight imported by order of the Latvian government.

Galoshes for cows have been intro-duced in Czechoslovakia, designed to ward off hoof-and-mouth disease, according to press dispatches. A previous item carried in this column told about bovine overshoes in Czechoslovakia for the prevention of foot rot.

* * *

According to statement by the New Zealand Minister of Finance, the Dominion government's guarantee price for dairy products resulted in a loss of about $1,690,000 last season.

TWENTY PER CENT INCREASE IN CATTLE ON FEED

THE NUMBER OF CATTLE ON feed for market in the 11 Corn Belt states on April 1 was about 20 per cent or about 200,000 head, larger than the small number on feed that date last year, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The number, however, was much smaller than in most years prior to 1934.

The increases applied in nearly all states, with the largest percentage increases in South Dakota, Nebraska, Illinois, and Iowa. Kansas is apparently the only state where cattle feeding has made no recovery after having been greatly reduced in the drought years.

In the eastern Corn Belt the number on feed was considerably larger than the average for 1929 to 1933, but in the western Corn Belt much smaller.

Number on feed January 1, 1938, was estimated at 15 per cent larger than a year earlier. Records indicate that the marketings of fed cattle during January to March did not increase relatively as much as did the number on feed. The sharp drop in prices of fed cattle and the abundant supplies and relatively low prices of feed grains seem to have encouraged feeders to postpone marketings to some extent.

Advance reports indicate that marketings during April to June will be smallest proportion of those on feed reported in any of the last 10 years. This may mean that the supply of fed cattle to be marketed during these months may not be much larger than a year earlier, due to the large number of light cattle reported on feed January 1. But the supply in the months after July will be very much larger.

Estimated number of cattle on feed April 1 as a percentage of the number on feed April 1, 1937, are as follows:

Ohio	102 per cent
Indiana	112 per cent
Illinois	128 per cent
Michigan	100 per cent
Wisconsin	115 per cent
Minnesota	105 per cent
Iowa	125 per cent
Missouri	115 per cent
South Dakota	175 per cent
Nebraska	135 per cent
Kansas	90 per cent
Corn Belt (weighted)	120 per cent

ROUND THE RANGE

WESTERN LIVE STOCK AND RANGE REPORT

WESTERN RANGES AND PASTURES are in the best condition since 1931; the Great Plains sections that were dry last year have ample moisture to start new feed, with generally good feed conditions along the mountains and west of the main range; cattle and sheep are in good condition, with only light local losses during spring storms, according to the May 1 live-stock and range report of the Denver regional office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Condition of ranges is 84 per cent of normal compared with 82 per cent last month, 75 per cent a year ago, and the 1928-37 average of 80 per cent.

Condition by states:

Arizona.—Lower ranges dried rapidly; rain needed in southern sections; higher and northern ranges good; browse good in southern areas; ample stock water; cattle in good condition; good calf crop; sheep and lambs in good flesh; conditions good in northern sheep areas.

California.—Range and pasture continues far above average; feed green in early districts longer than usual; spring feed late in northern mountain districts but prospects excellent; stock excellent except in some mountain localities where hay supplies short; cattle gaining excellently on native feed in earlier areas; some grassers marketed; fairly large volume well-finished grassers for delivery May, June, July; early lambs developed well but shipments delayed because good feed conditions; movement will be heavy in May; relatively few feeder lambs in early bands; late lamb crop expected about normal.

Colorado.—Range and pasture feed prospects best in several years; moisture increased since May 1; new feed well started in lower areas; good old feed except in eastern dryland areas; stock wintered in very good condition except in few local eastern short feed areas; lamb and calf crop prospects good; some local losses in April storms; shearing general in western slope and northwest sections where some sales new clip.

Idaho.—Early ranges good; late range prospects good; soil moisture good but cool weather delayed growth; cattle in very good flesh; good crop calves; sheep and lambs in very good condition although cool, wet weather not too favorable; conditions favorable for late lambing.

Kansas (western).—Rain greatly improved pastures; moisture best in recent years but subsoil dry in some areas; good start in new feed but grass stands weedy; cattle in fair to good condition; losses light.

Montana.—Old range feed fair to good though poor in eastern areas dry last year; good start in new feed but slow in 1937 dry areas; soil moisture best in several years and ample for new feed; stock wintered in average condition except where dry last year; early April and early May storms hard on stock; few local losses and some loss lambs and early calves; wool sales limited.

Nebraska (western).—Rain greatly improved ranges and pastures; some grass stands thin, weedy; good subsoil moisture in Sandhills; good hay crop prospects; old feed short; cattle in good condition; losses light; good calf prospects.

Nevada.—Range feed good but slow developing; spring and summer feed prospects very good; ample moisture; cattle and sheep wintered in very good flesh; light losses; lamb and calf crop prospects very good.

New Mexico.—Ranges fair to good; some damage from early April freezes; top soil dried rapidly and grass made slow growth; stock in good condition but cool weather caused small decline in April; some old and new wool sold in southwest.

North Dakota.—April improved ranges and pastures but cool weather retarded new grass; feed generally ample except in northwest drought area; concentrates purchased in central and western areas; rains will make good feed; cattle and sheep in good condition except in dry areas; good lamb crop expected.

Oklahoma.—Ranges and pastures best in several years; good grazing in all sections; summer prospects good; moisture short in western Panhandle; cattle making rapid gain and in very good condition; some losses of cattle and sheep in early April storms; good crop calves.

Oregon.—Ranges exceptionally good where warm weather permitted growth; soil moisture best in several years; summer feed prospects very good; cattle in very good condition; calf crop good; sheep in very good flesh; lambs making good gains; lambing about completed; higher percentage than year ago; wool sales very limited.

South Dakota (western).—Range feed prospects good; some localities need rain; subsoil moisture short in many areas; live stock in good condition; losses light; some local demand for stock; good feed will create some surplus grass as numbers reduced; lamb and calf prospects good.

Texas.—Ranges and pastures good; bit dry in western Texas and subsoil dry in south and northwest summer feed prospects good; cattle above average and doing very well; few cattle losses in early April storms in northwest; calf crop prospects good; sheep in very good flesh; few lambs and freshly shorn sheep lost in early April storms; large crop lambs making good growth; demand and local sales much below year ago; movement cattle to northern pastures relatively light; fair supply grass-fat cattle; April sheep marketings about half of last year's; total spring marketings will fall far below record year ago.

Utah.—Cool weather delayed new feed but generally spring range feed prospects good; ample soil moisture; warm weather needed; summer range feed prospects good; cattle in good condition; winter losses light; sheep wintered in very good condition; lamb crop prospects good.

Washington. — Early and summer range prospects best in years; soil moisture very good; stock in very good condition; early lambs making good gains; larger crop than last year; little wool sold.

Wyoming.—Range and feed prospects very good; moisture ample; stock in very good condition; light losses in April; earlier lambing good; late lamb crop prospects favorable; early calf crop good and stock cows in good condition; shearing well under way in south-central sections; some old wool sold in April; new clip sales limited.

BULLETINS IN BRIEF

THE LOWEST FARM PRODUCTS price index in nearly four years is reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The index as of April 15 was 94 per cent of prewar. Some average farm prices received were:

	Apr. 15, 1938	Apr. 15, 1937	5-Yr. Av. 1909-14
Beef Cattle (cwt.)	6.30	6.97	5.21
Veal Calves (cwt.)	8.00	8.05	6.75
Sheep (cwt.)	3.90	4.98	4.53
Lambs (cwt.)	7.23	9.19	5.87
Hogs (cwt.)	7.77	9.04	7.22
Horses (head)	88.00	100.20	136.60
Wheat (bu.)	.75	1.266	.884
Corn (bu.)	.527	1.191	.642
Oats (bu.)	.283	.546	.399
Hay, all (ton)	8.17	12.24	11.87

"One of our friends was particularly interested lately in a certain cargo that had just been unloaded at the harbor of New York City—piles of cases, each labeled 'Packed Especially for CCC Camps, Ogden, Utah.' Inside the cases was beef; the place of origin was Argentina." The foregoing is quoted from a recent editorial in *Country Home.* It has called forth various inquiries, even one in Congress by Paul W. Shafer (Michigan). Congressman Harry B. Coffee (Nebraska) has transmitted the information from Major General Henry Stebbins, Quartermaster General, that "A careful search of procurement records in Washington fails to disclose evidence of any such purchase, and all purchasing and contracting officers are presumed to be cognizant of the existing regulations which expressly prohibit such purchases. We feel that the article . . . was a misstatement."

* * *

Attorney for the Denver Union Stock Yards Company has asked the United States Supreme Court to set aside rates proposed by Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace for stock-yard services. The appeal is from a three-judge Colorado district court decision approving the rate order. Validity of the rate base value set by Secretary Wallace was challenged.

* * *

Stockmen recently were relieved of the 72-hour wait before removing cattle from the Oklahoma yards to tuberculosis free accredited counties in Oklahoma and to other modified accredited states. The action was taken because now Oklahoma is an accredited area as well as are the states from which cattle are shipped to Oklahoma. The test will only be required in interstate shipments to states specifically requiring the test on certain classes of cattle.

* * *

Swift and Company's new packing plant at Lake Charles, Louisiana, initially is employing 200 men, with total employment to be increased to 800 when the plant is in full operation. Built under Louisiana's industrialization plan, the plant will be free from taxation for 10 years. The new plant has offered to the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station equipment, cattle, sheep, feed, etc., to conduct pasture and feeding experiments on its land adjacent to the plant—an action heartily commended at the recent Louisiana Cattlemen's Association meeting at Baton Rouge.

* * *

Hundred-year-old Ned Hillyard, colored rancher of Pomerene, Arizona, has been offered on application a three-year lease of grazing privileges on the public domain. Part of his application report said: "In spite of his advanced years, he is considered yet as one of the best cowboys in the state. He was alone at his ranch at the date of my examination, and was engaged in breaking a bucking colt. He is remarkably active and I can see no reason for refusing him a lease for a few years at least."

* * *

Few changes will be made in the classification for the 1938 International Live Stock Exposition, to be held in Chicago November 26 to December 3, according to Secretary B. H. Heide. The exposition's board of directors voted slight changes affecting barrow classes. In the open steer show, exhibitors will be required to display the age as well as the weights of their animals, the rule not applying to the junior show, however. Members of the board present were Henry W. Marshall, LaFayette, Indiana; Dean C. F. Curtiss, Ames, Iowa; F. W. Harding, Chicago; Judge W. W. Wright, Toulon, Illinois; Dean W. C. Coffey, St. Paul, Minnesota; Hon. James W. Wadsworth, Geneseo, New York; Albert K. Mitchell, Albert, New Mexico; Jess C. Andrew, West Point, Indiana; and O. T. Henkle, Edward J. Lawler, Harry McNair, G. F. Swift, and D. C. Mosier, all of Chicago.

* * *

Strikes by union shearers have not stopped shearing in states adjoining Idaho, says the April 27 issue of *Idaho Wool Growers Bulletin.* Contrary to talk given out by organizers, it is stated, actual facts show many shearing plants did operate from the beginning of strike call. The bulletin summarizes the situation as follows: In Nevada—shearing in some sections; bags marked in one or two cases without owner's consent; majority oppose branding and labeling of sacks. In Washington—shearing progressing rapidly; no labels allowed on bags; few days will see majority of wool off; both union and non-union crews at work. In Oregon—no knowledge of labels on wool; growers opposed and using crews that desire to work; some reports given out to contrary are misrepresentation. In California—shearing progressed from start; crews willing to work found ample employment; shearing past peak; crews that worked through from beginning given preference; no labels on bags; misrepresentation being made to shearers in other sections; facts are being given out; shearers and sheepmen find many statements by traveling antagonistic workers not true.

* * *

Credit for restocking purposes in areas where ranges have been depleted through severe drought and insect infestation will be made available through facilities of the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation, it was recently disclosed by E. A. Phillips, secretary of the Montana Stock Growers' Association. The announcement followed a conference in Helena, Montana, by a group of Montana stockmen with officials of the RACC. Only applicants whose requirements for range loans exceed $5,000 will be considered eligible.

Rustling within the law: Billy Grounds, field live-stock inspector at large, reported to the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association that there seems to be a new way of complying with the law. "The man last week at Kingman who was tried for cattle stealing claimed he did what the live-stock laws require —'hanging the hide of the animal on the fence until the live-stock inspector inspects it.' However, either by accident or design, he hung an old dry hide over it, practically concealing it. He said the law did not specify that it should not be covered up. Thieves seldom, if ever, quite cover up their tracks." The man was charged with secreting and defacing a hide. He was fined $50. . . . Carting away of a couple of miles of fence is a new way of worrying the rancher. Press reports tell of the uprooting and hauling away of 1,000 steel posts five feet long from the property of the La Force and Ferguson Cattle Company ranch near Limon, Colorado.

* * *

Warnings are being sent to Corn Belt and northeastern states by the Department of Agriculture that there is a possibility they will face the most widespread outbreak of the destructive European corn borer in their history this spring and summer. Department entomologists said last summer's plentiful moisture and last winter's mild weather encouraged development of borer eggs in greater number than usual. Only dry weather in June, they said, would prevent general hatch of the eggs and a serious infestation. Weather conditions the past season or two have been unpropitious for the borer's ravages.

* * *

Exports of Canadian cattle and calves to the United States in the first three months of 1938 totaled 28,927 head, compared with 70,962 for January-March, 1937. Continued heavy shipments to the United Kingdom were reported from Canada in April, a previous report stating that cattle prices were being helped by British demand.

* * *

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace has granted request of Denver Union Stock Yards to make an increase from 2½ cents a head to 4 cents a head in its charge for the delivery of trucked-in cattle and calves from the truck unloading chutes to the pens of the various commission firms.

* * *

Winter wheat production of 725,707,- 000 bushels is indicated in the April 1 report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This compares with the crop of 685,102,000 bushels in 1937 and the 1927-36 average production of 546,396,-000 bushels. Private crop experts reported that April snows, rains, and sleet storms increased prospects. Average of their estimates is 743,000,000 bushels.

There is a ranch up on the Blue River, 40 miles from Clifton, Arizona, whose garage is only only three miles from the ranch house. Fred J. Fritz, cattleman and state representative from Greenlee County, who is owner of the ranch, has in the past had to pack everything 15 miles, but by degrees he has now got to within three miles of headquarters by always keeping his movable garage at the newest end of a new Forest Service road.

* * *

Use of soybean oil in foods, principally shortening and margarine, increased from less than 10,000,000 pounds in 1934 to more than 140,000,000 pounds in 1937. Practically all of increased supplies, attributed to expanded acreage and higher yields, have been absorbed by food industries.

* * *

Remarkable increase in world whale oil production is shown by international trade during the 1937-38 season of 1,260,000,000 pounds—an increase of 27 per cent over the preceding season. Germany produced 202,122,000 pounds; Japan, 154,211,600 pounds; Norway, 296,129,545; British Empire, 429,696,400; United States, 42,670,200. The Association of American Producers of Domestic Inedible Fats notes that any reduction or repeal of the present tax on whale oil would release a world supply into the United States market at world prices now about 2.8 cents per pound and would force all domestic oils to compete at that level.

* * *

Western railroads have petitioned the Interstate Commerce Commission to modify existing orders to correct what they term "abuses which have grown up and which threaten to increase under the present adjustment" of rates on stocker and feeder live stock. In other words, the railroads are asking for the cancellation of the 85 per cent stocker and feeder rates. Officers of the American National Live Stock Association are arranging to file replies to the petition.

* * *

Successful bidder for Philippine requirements of Army beef of some 1,000,000 pounds was Tovrea Packing Company, Phoenix, Arizona. Urging placement of the order with an American firm were the American National Live Stock Association, Senator Johnson of Colorado, Senator Hayden of Arizona, and Representative Coffee of Nebraska. The California Cattlemen's Association, through several of California's representatives, also pressed for acceptance of a domestic bid. The bid was $15.67.

* * *

Construction of an addition to the rodent and predator control bait-supply depot of the Biological Survey at Pocatello, Idaho, for storing grain and other supplies used in making bait is under way. About 3,000,000 pounds of treated oats for co-operative rodent control projects are shipped annually from the supply depot. Demand of farmers, stockmen, and others for co-operative assistance in controlling rodents and predators on their lands has increased greatly in recent years.

STOCKMEN'S BOOKSHELF

THE COLORADO RANGE CATTLE INDUSTRY, by Ora B. Peake, Ph. D., Associate Professor of History, Colorado State College of Education, Greeley, Colorado. The Arthur H. Clark Company, Glendale, California. Price $6. The beginning of the range cattle industry in Colorado; 20 years of removal of Indians from Colorado's cattle ranges by treaties; difficulties in connection with securing land; part associations had in development of the industry; quaint ordinances, regulations, and laws; "beef round-ups;" and many other phases in Colorado's live-stock history are described. Many paragraphs are devoted to the activities of live-stock organizations in the state. The Colorado Stock Growers' Association was organized in 1867, it is explained, and the state's early and many local bodies make Colorado a state of outstanding rank in live-stock organizations.

HOW TO MODERNIZE YOUR FARM HOME, a booklet describing the National Housing Act as it applies to farmers, is now available, and free copies may be had by writing the Federal Housing Administration, Washington, D. C. Stockmen may finance cost of repairing, rebuilding, or modernizing their homes and other buildings on helpful terms under the amended housing act. Amounts up to $10,000 may be borrowed to repair or improve existing structures and up to $2,500 to erect new structures. Repayment may be spread over five years for modernization and repair work and seven years for erection of new structures for residential purposes; for other new structures a five-year repayment period will be permitted. Although 9.72 per cent and 6.69 per cent, respectively, are the true interest rates, these charges represent a low financing cost for this type of loan. The plan also offers the advantages of regular payments to retire the debt gradually by easy steps, and a more liberal lending policy on the part of lending institutions because of the government insurance protection.

REVIEW AND ALBUM OF THIRTY-EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL LIVE STOCK EXPOSITION. 325 pp. Illustrated. Address exposition headquarters at Union Stock Yards, Chicago. Price $1. The book is a cloth-bound volume, giving descriptive reviews of the competitions of the stock show, horse show, grain and hay show, and farm youth activities. Also photographs of the championship winners.

SAFE USE AND STORAGE OF GASOLINE AND KEROSENE ON THE FARM. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Free. Gasoline and kerosene fires cause a loss of approximately $6,000,000 a year on the farms of the United States, according to the booklet. Ignorance and disregard of the explosion hazard of gasoline and kerosene are responsible for most of these fires. It is dangerous to use gasoline for dry cleaning in the home. It may explode from even a tiny spark of static electricity produced by rubbing the clothing cleaned. Neither kerosene nor gasoline should be used to start a fire in the house.

HAY TOOLS. Specifications, description, and prices on hay stackers and loaders, sweep rakes, and hammer mills. Address the Wyatt Manufacturing Company, Salina, Kansas.

RELATION OF GROWTH TO THE VARYING CARBOHYDRATE CONTENT IN MOUNTAIN BROME, by C. McCarty, formerly with the Forest Service. Technical Bulletin 598. Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. 5 cents. Preservation of perennial range grasses depends upon the proper manufacture and storage of carbohydrates by the plant, according to the booklet. The author says that "Any system of grazing is injurious that permits complete and frequent removal of the green shoots and thereby prevents normal manufacture and storage of carbohydrates. One complete clipping of all herbage at any time during the ative growing period or at the close of the current season of growth results in diminished carbohydrate concentration in the renewed herbage growth as well as in the stem bases and roots of the plant."

LETTERS

UNDERSTANDING

"If and When It Rains" is a demonstration of the proper way to secure accurate information. Wisely you have accepted the observations of the men who live on the land and by the fruits of the land. The document thus becomes a record of scientific data and the stockman accepted among those who are doing scientific research. If the stockman can now secure general recognition as a business man who knows something about his own business, he will have a powerful weapon against the politician who does not know a steer from a stampede and who would rather handle a hed-hot poker than actual facts.

Coincidentally, from an entirely different source comes understanding of the producer. Among "best sellers" is *R. F. D.* "A literary man of urban intelligence" is the author. With an open mind he goes to live on a farm. He soon learns the problems of the farmer. He understands. Here are one or two quotations: "For 80 years the American farmer has been mulcted by legal devices that favor the industrial side of the American economy." . . . "Farming is not the simple life, but is very complex." . . . "Plow back into the soil as much as you take out of it." . . . "Selling is sometimes necessary, but if you can consume a thing instead of marketing it you naturally keep other people from taking a profit on its transportation and processing, which in the last analysis means that you have saved that much." Mr. Smart admires the farmers in his neighborhood because "they add to the world's wealth without taking anything out of the hides of other human beings." . . . "In the city we go through the motions of living. In the country the motions take on meaning, and the blood runs clear."—C. C. TANNEHILL, Los Angeles, Cal.

ASSOCIATION VETERINARY

I have just accepted the position as veterinarian for the Stevens County (Washington) Live Stock Association, recently formed. Under the plan, members pay $5 plus 5 cents per animal unit (1 horse, 1 cow, 2 calves, 2 colts, 5 sheep, or 5 hogs). The fee entitles members to medicine and four calls a year at 5 cents per mile, round trip. After this is used up, a charge of $2 will be made, together with mileage and medicine charge. It is planned to build up to 300 members. The veterinarian may handle his own medicine and can do outside work.—DR. G. F. MOTTELER, Colville, Wash.

YEAR FOR FEED

We enjoy this magazine a great deal. Spring in this section is just getting started, but the cattle came through the winter in good shape. This should be a very good year for feed, as conditions are most favorable. We just received a coming three-year-old Angus bull which we purchased from Congdon and Battles, of Yakima, Washington. Battles shipped us a fine animal. We run Angus bulls, but buy lots of Hereford and Shorthorn cattle. We find the Angus to be much the best for our range conditions.—CHAS. F. HAMMOND, Fort Jones, Cal.

MOST SEVERE DROUGHT

Your pamphlet, "If and When It Rains," brought back some recollections of trail work of many years ago, when I saw some big losses in drought and hard winters. We have had dry years, some worse than others, for the past 10 years, and the most severe drought I have ever experienced in 62 years since my first trail work and 46 years on my present ranch was in 1936, when we had no grass whatever—burnt up by the 10th of May. One year ago I was buying hay from Minnesota, freighted to Miles City and trucked 101 miles to the ranch, to winter on with cake and grains. My neighbors were in the same condition. We had no grass until the last of July; but rains came, and in August grass was good and of quality—more buffalo grass than I have seen for 20 years. Cattle got fat for the first time in 10 years.—DAN KELTY, Otter, Mont.

MUCH INTERESTED

I have been very much interested in your bulletin "If and When It Rains," and I think you have covered the situation in a most interesting manner. I also consider the subject one of great importance to western states. In this connection I have used fleece weights of Utah and Idaho. The Utah fleece weights show 20 per cent increase in 1930-34 over 1912-15. Inclusion of Dr. Rinehart's lamb weights [showing average weight of lambs increasing from 73.2 to 80] has been of special interest applying to northern Utah as well as Idaho.—A. C. ESPLIN, *Sheep and Wool Specialist*, Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah.

FINE CROP

The range in this part of the country is fine—grass coming fine, stock looking fine. I think we will have a fine crop of crickets and hoppers. Stock has wintered well, and a very good calf crop is expected.—M. C. WILSON, Decker, Mont.

BULLY

Please send me a copy of the PRODUCER, the rates for one to three years, and your ad rates. One of your subscribers said your periodical wasn't such a bad magazine to read, although at times a little "bully."—W. H. GLOVER, Ventura, Cal.

BEST PROSPECTS

In the Grande Ronde Valley, Oregon, we have the best prospects for grass this spring that we have had for several years. Stock of all kinds has wintered well. There is quite a surplus of hay and grain in Union County.—CYRUS WILLIAMS, Union, Ore.

Fifth annual rodeo conducted by the Madrone Rodeo Association will be held at Madrone, California, on June 5, 1938. The rodeo, although strictly nonprofessional, maintains top prize lists.

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